8th Anniversary Issue

WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 9, NO. 1 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | MAY 1998

"Identifying ways we participate in the perpetuation of white supremacy, of racist domination expands our potential for intervention and transformation...It enables us to see that we are a collective, that we can be a community of resistance." **bell hooks**

Initiating A Community-Wide Response to Hate Crimes

Robin Jennings

A weekend in mid-April, my family and I were hiking in the Capitol Forest on the public access road when we came across the gate at D-4000. It is the access gate for the relay transmitters on Capitol Peak. It was locked. On it were spray painted words that offended us (see photo at right).

My daughter asked what the meaning of the words was. She was upset to see such racial epithets. It was appalling to see such hateful words.

Yes, even in the little town of Olympia, this could happen.

I, like other parents in this community, want a safe and happy environment for our children to grow up in. Many express a desire for this in Olympia also, but are taking an apathetic or complacent stance. I, as a parent and moral individual, could not just stand by and slough off these actions as "Punks will be Punks."

Yes, the responses to this event are varied. Some are asking how this can exist in this community. From a murder of an Asian-American boy in a downtown tunnel to spray painted hate graffiti on public access roads in a natural setting, each attack is hurtful. Not only is it damaging to individual groups, but hurtful to our children's quality of life here in Olympia. The offenses might be subtle or overt, but they do exist in Thurston County.

Unfortunately so, it means we have to confront such attitudes.

What each of us as individuals need to assess is what our role as players are regarding this ignorance. The ultimate victims of this are the community. As members of this society, each one needs to be compelled to address this issue, talk about it amongst ourselves, and command responsibility and accountability from political, governmental and community agencies to respond.

It must be understood that HATE CRIMES will not be tolerated in this community. PERIOD.

Look for a Rally in June.

Hate Crime Statistics - Regionally and Nationally

In the region (six states) of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment a total of 611 bias crime incidents were reported to law enforcement agencies in 1996. The Coalition encourages the reporting of bias crimes. However, it must be realized that there are countless hate crimes occurring that go unreported.

Bias crimes are offenses committed because of the suspect's bias against the group to which the victim belongs. In 370 incidents the bias was race, in 71 it was national origin, in 91 it was sexual orientation, in 69 it was religion, in 1 it was gender and in 9 it was other groups. (Washington is the only state to track crimes based on gender.)

Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment PO Box 16776 Seattle, WA 98116; phone: (206) 233-9136 ; fax: (206) 233-0611; ncamh@aol.com

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7,947 hate crime incidents were reported to the FBI in 1995 from across the U.S. The hate crimes include murder, rape, assault, intimidation, robbery, burglary, larceny, arson, and destruction/damage/vandalism.

- Sixty-one percent of the incidents were motivated by racial bias, 75% against people of color (4,831), mostly blacks (2,988).
- Sixteen percent of the incidents were motivated by religious bias (1,277), all but 67 against non-christians and 83% against Jewish people (1,058).
- Thirteen percent of the incidents were motivated by sexual orientation (1,019), all but 17 against queers and 72% against Gay men (735).
- Ten percent of the incidents were motivated by Ethnicity/National Origin (814), 63% against Hispanics (516).

Running into Neo-Nazis in the Forest!

The following is a story of a local couple who went for a hike in the Olympic Mountains. Their identities are concealed to protect themselves from any sort of possible retaliation.

Back in the fall of 1994, L. and I were coming down the trail from Mount Anderson Pass to the Dosewallips Trailhead in the Olympic National Park. We hadn't seen anyone on the trail and so were surprised to see two young men, dressed in camouflage, at one of the main campsites. We were about five miles from the Trailhead.

L. wondered why they were wearing camouflage, as we stopped there to fill our canteens and eat a snack by the river. I said "hi", but got no answer.

After two or three minutes of resting, I looked up and saw to my horrified astonishment that they had just then tied up a huge, red nazi flag around two trees -- right where we would see it. I can't easily describe the instant feelings of disgust and fear that the sight of that flag caused in me. I felt it had been put up to intimidate us. We left immediately; no words were exchanged. I can still remember staring in disgust at the stupid grins on those two pathetic wannabee S.S. scumbags.

Their presence and attitude made me very angry. I felt that a place that is in some sense sacred and peaceful was invaded by a sick evil.

I reported the event to the National Park office the next day. They said they would try to find the two, but I don't think they did much because when I called back and asked about it, they didn't even remember my report.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred). Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, worksinprogress@juno.com, or come by our office and drop it in the "WIP Box" located in the Liberation Cafe.

Back Issues:

A complete set of back issues is located in the library of Liberation Cafe along with a chrono-index.

WIP is also being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, May 22nd

6pm at Liberation Cafe

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, May 26th
7 pm at Liberation Cafe

WORKS IN PROGRESS:
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Letters & Briefs

Workers Cheated

Dear Sir,

In response to your article "International Day of Action against Sweatshops." We have sweatshops since the last century. If we do not have a complete change of government we will have sweatshops a hundred years in to the next century if the human race lasts that long. Unions are impotent - legal or not legal. As long as the workers do not get the full value of their labor sweatshops will continue. The worker is cheated at the workplace, not at the place he spends money.

Nike is the most obvious company to have sweatshops. What about the millions, big and small industries with substandard working conditions?

When the workers own the industries and lock the owning class out sweatshops will end. The Socialist labor Party is the only political party for the working class. N.Y. Labor News P.O. Box 218, Mountain View, CA 94042-0218.

P.S. The workplace hazards is too long to explain here which is explained in Paul Brodeur's excellent book (at the library) The Zapping of America.

Yours truly, Milton Poulos

Starbucks Progress on its Code of Conduct

At its February 5, 1998 shareholders meeting, the Starbucks Coffee Company released its 1998-1999 Framework for Action for Improving the Lives of People Who Grow, Harvest and Process Coffee. This Framework for Action represents the company's progress report to date on adopting and implementing its code of conduct for suppliers of its coffee and describes its future plans. It also represents a significant advancement over Starbucks previous efforts, which in March 1997 prompted US/GLEP to accuse Starbucks of reneging on its commitment.

On the one hand, the 1998-1999 action plan falls well short of implementing a code of conduct for Starbucks suppliers. The company has not yet taken steps to ensure that the works on large and medium-sized farms from which Starbucks buys are paid even the legal minimum wage (let alone a living wage) or that their basic rights, especially the right to organize, are respected. These are the fundamental goals of US/GLEP's coffee worker economic justice initiative, and have not been met.

On the other hand US/GLEP is persuaded that Starbucks is now seriously engaged in the issue, has begun to commit significant resources to moving forward in developing and implementing a code of conduct, and has begun to take real responsibility for working conditions on farms from which it buys by implementing a new incentive program that will pay growers an extra $500,000 this year to improve working and living conditions for their workers. Starbucks is far ahead of other commercial coffee companies in taking responsibility for the conditions of coffee workers abroad and also far ahead of most U.S. apparel companies that have much more detailed codes of conduct but have done virtually nothing to implement them.

We therefore applaud and vigorously support Starbucks current directions, with important caveats, and believe that the basic message to the company should be strongly affirmative but conditional. US/GLEP currently has no plans to resume its Starbucks campaign work and will not as long as we are persuaded that the company is continuing to move forward in a significant way towards fully implementing a code of conduct.

Overall, US/GLEP believes that corporate responsibility advocacy in the coffee industry can be more effectively used at this point to persuade other coffee companies to follow the path that Starbucks has begun to take.

Jeannie MacKay
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Seattle, WA 98134

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Olympia's Fleetwood Housing Update

The Fleetwood, housing for the formerly homeless, is thriving. There's a long waiting list. Police, at first skeptical, have been won over as supporters by the Fleetwood self -managed model that includes on site staff.

The need for affordable housing, and for transitional housing remains great and growing in Thurston County. The Low Income Housing Institute, which successfully brought the Fleetwood from confrontation to reality, is looking for community partners to help it meet the need for housing available to the poorest among us.

The Fleetwood continues to show we can come together to help each other, without pity, without fear.

Peace in Northern Ireland

While many doubted that "the troubles" in Northern Ireland would ever be resolved, Maitreya, the World Teacher, forecast as early as October 1988 in SHARE INTERNATIONAL

(Continued on page 18)

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MAY 1998

Myths and Facts About Homelessness

Myth: Setting up services for homeless people will cause homeless people from all around to migrate to a city.

Fact: Studies show that people who are homeless do not migrate for services. When they do move to new areas, it is because they are searching for work, have family in the area or other reasons not related to services. (A recent study found that 75% of homeless people are still living in the city in which they became homeless.)

Myth: Homeless people don't work and get most of their money from public assistance programs.

Fact: People who are homeless do work, and a relatively small percentage of them receive government assistance.

Myth: Homeless people are a fixed population who are usually homeless for long periods of time.

Fact: The homeless population is quite diverse in terms of their length of homelessness and the number of times they cycle in and out of homelessness. Research on the length of homelessness states that 40% of homeless people have been homeless less than six months, and that 70% of homeless people have been homeless less than two years.

Myth: Homeless people commit more violent crimes than housed people.

Fact: People who are homeless are actually less likely to commit violent crimes against person or property than housed people.

Source: *National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	**JUNE** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	**"It is a tragic aspect of our culture that homeless people, in addition to suffering from the hardship of their condition, are subjected to alienation and discrimination by mainstream society."** *National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty*			**1** 1996 - Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge reopens after it was forced to closed for repairs due to the flood	**2** 1997 - Longhouse at Evergreen becomes the "House of Welcome" during a naming ceremony
3 1963- 1,000s of protesting Birmingham school children are set upon by police dogs and fire hoses	**4** 1997 -WHO reports cancer cases are expected to double in developing nation's within 25 years	**5** 1997 - Florida jury finds R.J.R.not responsible for death of lifelong smoker who died of lung cancer	**6** 1997 - 50 Chehalis high school students protest removal of AIDS speaker after he revealed he was gay	**7** 1997 - Federal judge overturns state law requiring employers plans tocover alternative medical treatment	**8** 1958- Vice-President Richard Nixon is pelted with fruit, eggs, and stones in Lima, Peru	**9** 1933- 1st Nazi book burnings in Berlin 1963- Birmingham: Desegregation agreement reached
10 1996 - House passes bill offering families $5,000 tax credit to adopt children and ban "race matching"	**11** 1963- An integrated Birmingham hotel is bombed 1996 - ValuJet crash in Everglades kills 109	**12** 1997 - Judge rejects attempt to include public cost of Seahawks stadium in the ballot measure's title	**13** 1958- Vice-President Nixon is attacked by anti-US demonstrators in Caracas hurling rocks at his limousine	**14** 1909- Congressmen leave House restaurant when an African-American official and guest are served	**15** 1997 - Investigation begins on why a Hanford chemical tank , not supposed be violtile, exploded	**16** 1996 - Nisqually Tribe writes to Clinton protesting bill limiting tribes' authority in adoptions
17 1961- Cuba offers Bay of Pig prisoners for 500 U.S. tractors 1996 - 64 car pileup on I-5 in Olympia	**18** *full moon* ● 1996 - Olympia: 200 protest timber salvage rider allowing logging of 1,000s of acres of old-growth timber	**19** 1902- Tennessee mine collapses, 200 killed 1536- Anne Boleyn is beheaded by Henry the VIII	**20** 1997 - Locke vetoes migrant housing bill that relaxes building codes for temporary worker housing	**21** 1997 - Gay-friendly Rendezvous restaurant and lounge closes after being served an eviction notice	**22** 1997 - Female bomber pilot Kelly Flinn accepts general discharge to avoid court-marial for adultry	**23** 1996 - Court of Appeals rejects suit against cigarette manufacturers for of millions of smokers
24 1861- Major General Benjamin F. Butler declares that slaves captured are "contraband of war"	**25** 1971- Young black woman, Jo Ehta Collier, killed in Drew, Miss. by bullet fired from passing car.	**26** 1995 - State Rep. Steve Fuhrman, conservative republican from Kettle Falls, will not seek re-election	**27** 1997 - Supreme Court rules Paula Jones continue with her lawsuit against President Clinton	**28** 1997 - Denmark prohibits parents from spanking their children or using other kinds of corporal punishment	**29** 1995 - Clinton vows to "leave no stone unturned" to find what happened to MIA's in Nam and earlier wars.	**30** 1997 - Washington residents begin receiving Referendum 48 ballot (the new Seahawk's stadium)
31 1955- Supreme Court orders school integration 1912- American Marines land in Cuba	**"Public policy has tried to reduce poverty by changing the behavior of poor people by frightening them with poorhouses, threatening to take away their children, training them in new skills, or regulating their sexuality. Public policy, however, has done little to address the reasons why so many young, healthy people (especially women with children—continue to find themselves in poverty; why one of four Americans falls below the poverty line for some point during the course of a decade; or why pretransfer poverty (that is, the proportion of individuals in poverty before they received government income support) has not declined in more than twenty-five years."** *Michael Katz*					

Up Front

One of Those Months

Jerome Johnson

For me, as well as other people of color, April '98 was one hell of an intense month.

First of the month, Clinton got back from Africa. I have mixed feelings about his trip, although on balance I'm okay with it. I was glad he went with an apparently open mind, and stayed nearly two weeks. He took with him captains of commerce as well as political and military people, many of them entrepreneurs like BET's Bob Johnson. And every time I saw Jesse Jackson strutting over the airwaves, I had to chuckle. Randall Robinson would have made a better Special Envoy to Africa, but then, Randall doesn't spend as much time at the White House as Jesse does.

I appreciated Clinton's contrition for slavery. I pray he backs it up with strong, consistent affirmative action. I was moved by his speech from the Gate of No Return, and also by his attentiveness as he listened to Gate's Curator describe the slaves' last hours in Africa before the Middle Passage, while holding shackles in his hands.

However, I am deeply concerned about the growing U.S. military ties to African nations. It's accelerating at the fastest rate since the early 1960s, even though no African nation poses a threat to the United States. Tunisia, Senegal, Kenya and the Gulf nations have had a military relationship with the U.S. for decades. On this trip, Clinton openly acknowledged the growing cooperation between the U.S. and Ghana, Rwanda, Botwana, Uganda, and South Africa. For several months the Green Berets have been training the armies in these and other countries. Given Africa's history of internal wars and the results of the Green Berets' "advice" in Haiti, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Latin America, I think this bears close watching while we work to stop it.

Another thing that angered me about Clinton's trip was the way it was covered by the mainstream media. If Clinton had gone to Europe for almost two weeks, the networks would have followed him. The Today show would have moved to Paris, GMA to London, CNN to Rome, and stayed for the duration. Instead, the media continued to focus on the Starr/Lewinsky case. Only for a few minutes did they manage to tear themselves away from it long enough to scold Clinton because he acknowledged the terrible tragedy of slavery. I watched, but the speech from the Gate of No Return was not telecast live. I had to catch a weekend recording on C-SPAN. To me as a person of color, the media's not-so-subtle message was very clear: "As a mainstream white media serving white consumers, we still don't care about black people in Africa. Whites in Europe are still more important, and so is a scandal involving white people. Africa isn't important to us or our viewers, until they can buy the non-essential consumer toys our advertisers sell. So what if Americans — especially white Americans — remain ignorant? Africa's so far from here anyway."

Another thing that angered me about Clinton's trip was the way it was covered by the mainstream media. If Clinton had gone to Europe for almost two weeks, the networks would have followed him.

Thirty years ago on 4 April, Martin was killed in Memphis, and James Earl Ray died on this 22 of April. I don't think he acted without government involvement, and I hope his secrets didn't die with him. I pray that someone — maybe his lawyer — has a document, soon to be released, detailing everything Ray didn't say while he was alive. Like the King Family I'm not satisfied with just burying Ray, wringing our hands and saying it's over. I pray we all live long enough for the full truth to be known.

• In Ghana, President Jerry Rawlings battles a drought to keep the power on in his country.

• In Kenya, the U.S. Navy continues to make liberty and port calls at Momvasa and Nairobi.

• In New York, the U.N. Security Council votes to maintain sanctions against Iraq.

• In California, to the horror of several communities, the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan steal bundles of community newspapers, stuff them with hate literature and re-distribute them in the name of free press.

• And in Olympia, a small, diverse group of ordinary people gathered to discuss racism and the ways we fight it, all the time. As a black person, I couldn't think of a finer thing to do on April 22nd, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

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Works In Progress seeks contributors

Works In Progress encourages all persons, who would like to voice opinions or bring attention to issues of concern, to send written text (if on disk, IBM text preferred), recorded voice text, photographs, poetry, and/or art work to:

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Resumes or journalism writing skills are not required. It is recommended that an article be written in the contributor's own voice from her/his perspective. *Works In Progress* challenges the validity of the widely accepted concept of "unbiased journalism."

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Just One Drop: Prejudice in Metaphor

Tucker Estron

Imagine the opening of a new movie. This is a low-budget film, one obviously not to be taken too seriously. It promises lots of explosions and blood, but isn't supposed to be deep. The plot of this movie is that the racial purity of one group is being threatened by a woman of mixed race who wants to have a baby. The "heroes" of the story must find her and kill her to protect their own race from contamination with the blood of the outsider. In the end, they catch her and her newborn son and set fire to them, a scene from which the heroes return triumphant. Do you think this movie could be released today, and even become a "sleeper hit" that generates a sequel? Ridiculous, right?

Wrong. The movie with that plotline was produced, and released in 1995, and nobody even noticed. Its title was *Species*, and a sequel with a similar theme is due this summer.

Since the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, it has become progressively less acceptable to express prejudice against racial and ethnic minorities. This has caused the prejudices still held by the American public to go underground, as it were, expressing themselves through metaphor and allusion rather than openly. Though a serious chunk of white America still believes interracial relationships are wrong, a movie with that theme expressed openly would be attacked by critics and academics alike. So, the racism expresses itself more subtly, with allusion and metaphor. The people who made the movie may not even be conscious of the racist undertones; it could have been an unthinking expression of something they didn't even know they believed. Whether it was a conscious move or not, the message seemed to resonate with parts of the American public, enough so that a sequel is due this spring. Maybe most of the white people who went to see the movie never thought about its deeper meaning. Certainly they didn't think enough about it, or care enough, to be upset by it. Maybe it even served to reduce some stress for them, let them relax and imagine, through metaphor, that certain unacceptable but deeply held prejudices are right after all. But a prejudice expressed in metaphor is no less a prejudice, and xenophobia dressed as drama is still xenophobia.

In this movie, the human/alien hybrid, named Sil, is presented first as a victimized little girl locked in a cage in a laboratory; then as an irresistibly beautiful woman with an insatiable yet destructive sex drive; and finally as a "genetically flawed" creature designed by H. R. Geiger. As her character changes, her body changes appearance (from a blonde woman to a shiny black creature) and she is shown becoming progressively more violent. It's interesting to note that her changes cause her to become black, since her original coloring is very light, and that in her black form her sex drive increases, echoing a common stereotype about real Black women. Of course, Sil chooses only white men to commit interspecies miscegenation with. After having sex with them, or attempting to have sex with them, she "reverts" to her shiny black form and kills them. Eventually she becomes pregnant with (gasp!) an interspecies (read: interracial) child. She delivers her baby in the sewers of LA, and the "heroes" come in with flamethrowers and incinerate the new mother and her baby, the source of potential "contamination" of the human race.

To the xenophobes in* Species, *any alien ancestry, no matter how slight, makes one an alien (and therefore both not-human and in their view, subhuman; it still sends a message about the prejudices that are endemic in American culture.

The parallels between the way the human characters in *Species* consider Sil's DNA a contamination and the way white racists consider "one drop of Black blood" a contamination of the white race should be evident. In both cases, any amount - no matter how insignificant - of genetic connection to the Other is enough to make a person one of Them. To a white racist, any African ancestry, no matter how slight, makes one black (and in their view, subhuman). To the xenophobes in *Species*, any alien ancestry, no matter how slight, makes one an alien (and therefore both not-human and in their view, subhuman). That the moviemakers chose a shiny black creature as Sil's alien form was probably an unconscious move; but it still sends a message about the prejudices that are endemic in American culture, and the news is not good.

Tucker Estron publishes the local zine OtherWise.

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Big Tobacco has Consistently Targeted African Americans

Makani N. Themba

Not long ago in a not too distant place, an industry happened upon the perfect product. It was cheap to make. It made its users feel good, and it was very addictive.

The business world marveled at this discovery and rushed to reap what seemed to be endless profits. Even when it was discovered that the product, when used as directed, would kill its users, the crafty captains of industry fretted not. They would make up for the loss with new markets.

They set their sights on African Americans, who smoked far less in the 1950s than people in other communities. They began by spreading their money to every cause and institution that African Americans hold dear.

They funded their music, their art, their concerts, their schools and churches. They gave money to African American family reunion groups and sponsered family reunion storytelling contests for children. African American streets, building, and homes bore larger-than-life signs proclaiming the product's benefits.

The industry became so ingrained into community life that few protested when the death toll among African Americans as a result of this product climbed to more than 50,000 annually.

Unfortunately, this is not science fiction but the real-life story of the tobacco industry's targeting of African Americans. Recently leaked documents show how Big Tobacco plotted to addict African Americans to high nicotine, mentholated cigarettes. These documents demonstrate, in cold-blooded detail, how tobacco industry executives saw African Americans as a growth market for the tobacco industry. Not content to simply market products, the tobacco industry pioneered promotional campaigns that made tobaco a central feature of African American life.

Few African American leaders have expressed concern in the face of these disclosures. They simply owe Big Tobacco tobacco too much.

While most African American leaders go about their business in silence, President Clinton ponders a limited offer of legal immunity to the tobacco industry in exchange for a cash settlement. The money, according to the Clinton administration, would go to fund child-care policies and other family programs—mostly for the middle class.

These negotiations have virtually ignored the millions of African Americans living on the front lines of the tobacco wars. Few African American victims of the tobacco industry can retain high-priced litigators or afford the time and energy of a protracted civil suit. Most are battling for meager insurance benefits—and for their lives.

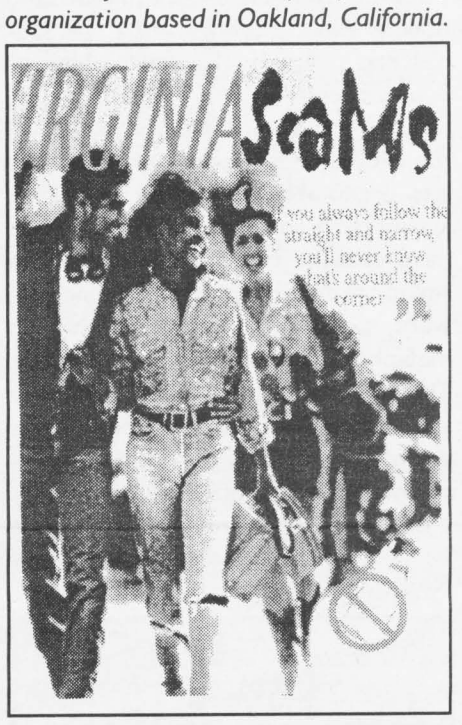
Tobacco has caused more death and destruction in the African American community than illegal drugs, alcohol, AIDS and violence combined. Hundreds of thousands of black children suffer from exposure to secondhand smoke in the form of asthma and other respiratory illnesses. A 1993 Center for Disease Control study showed that African Americans are least likely to be advised by their doctors to quit smoking. According to a University of North Carolina study, up until 10 years ago African Americans were more likely than any other group to receive medical advice to start smoking for stress and weight management.

Clinton's consideration of tobacco industry immunity in the face of this suffering is ironic, to say the least. Under "The Individual Responsibility Act of 1995", he greatly decreased support to communities left to deal with the tobacco industry's impact. Community clinics and hospitals have been shut down. Access to medical care has been limited, and basic financial support for families has been slashed. Any offer of immunity can only increase the burden on communities while letting the industry off the hook.

Instead of immunity and settlement, Clinton should tell the tobacco industry to pay its fair share—with no strings attached.

The newly released documents show the industry's sinister intenet to addict African Americans to the most deadly of its brands. The havoc it has wreaked and the profits it has reaped are too immense to allow it to simply buy its way out. Instead of immunity and settlement, Clinton should tell the tobacco industry to pay its fair share—with no strings attached.

Makani N. Themba is co-director of The Praxis Project, a media and policy advocacy organization based in Oakland, California.



Remove the Tobacco Lords

Russell Mokhiber

Imagine you were Geoffrey Bible, CEO of Philip Morris. You would have two overriding goals: First, to limit your liability from lawsuits in the United States. Second, to make sure nothing interfered with your plans to expand massively abroad.

In the deal the tobacco industry concluded with 40 state attorneys general last June, Bible and the other tobacco executives achieved both of these aims. The deal gave the industry effective immunity from lawsuits, by precluding class action lawsuits, preventing punitive damage awards to those who sue the industry and setting an annual cap that would assure the industry was required to pay no more than $5 billion a year to victims who successfully sued the tobacco companies. And it did absolutely nothing to curb Big Tobacco's overseas expansion.

The exclusion of international issues from the deal was not a simple oversight. When some of the attorney general negotiators raised it, Big Tobacco dismissed it out of hand. In the face of industry obstinacy, the attorneys general quickly capitulated.

In fact, the June deal would actually make matters worse internationally. The deal specifically denied the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate tobacco exports. It stated that, in the event of bankruptcy, the tobacco companies would be able to segment profits from overseas sales from their domestic bankruptcy payment obligations. And it denied foreign victims of the U.S. tobacco companies their limited right of access to U.S. courts. Unfortunately, many of these flaws have been replicated in several of the pending tobacco bills under congressional consideration.

What happens to the Tobacco Lords' foreign operations is of tremendous importance both to the health of the tobacco companies and, more importantly, to the health of millions of people around the world.

Philip Morris and R.J. Reynolds sell approximately two-thirds of their cigarettes overseas, and make nearly half their profits on foreign sales.

These sales do not just displace other companies sales. U.S. tobacco companies' marketing strategies create more smokers. After South Korea opened its market to U.S. companies in 1988, for example, smoking rates among male Korean teens rose from 18.4 percent to 29.8 percent in a single year. The rate among female teens more than quintupled, from 1.6 percent to 8.7 percent.

With smoking rates rising in the Third World due to rising incomes, corporate tobacco pushing and other causes, the World Health Organization predicts tobacco-related deaths worldwide will rise from 3 million to 10 million by the 2020s, with 70 percent of those fatalities in the developing world.

There is, however, reason to be hopeful that Geoffrey Bible and his associates will not succeed in their scheme to protect industry profits and continue uninhibited addicting millions around the globe. Even as prospects for tobacco company special protections are fading on Capitol Hill, a group of legislators have crafted an international tobacco control package that would begin to address Big Tobacco's international misconduct.

The deal gave the industry effective immunity from lawsuits, preventing punitive damage awards to those who sue the industry and setting an annual cap to victims who successfully sued the tobacco companies.

In late February, Senators Richard Durbin, D-Illinois, Frank Lautenberg, D-New Jersey, Paul Wellstone, D-Minnesota, and Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, joined with Representatives Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas, and Frank Pallone, D-New Jersey, to announce a legislative initiative that would require U.S. tobacco companies to adhere to at least as stringent marketing and labeling standards overseas as domestically.

Other provisions of the package would: prohibit the U.S. government from promoting U.S. tobacco interests in foreign markets; impose tough anti-smuggling provisions on tobacco products; and support governmental and non-governmental tobacco control efforts, including television counteradvertisements urging people not to smoke, in developing countries and in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Some Republican support for at least portions of the package is expected to be forthcoming.

Imagine that instead of Geoffrey Bible,

(Continued page 19)

The Coalition For Accountability

http://www.savelives.org/sl/fact/indended.cfm

Tobacco use KILLS approximately one half million Americans every year. This is more than 20% of all U.S. deaths, and more than are killed by all of the following:

- **Alcohol (105,000)**
- **Motor Vehicle accidents, including drunk driving (43,500)**
- **Homicides (24,000)**
- **AIDS (22,500)**
- **Illegal drugs (4,500)**
- **[Workplace deaths (10,000)]**
- **More than 400,000 deaths from smoking, More than 60,000 deaths from environmental tobacco smoke Approximately 1,000 deaths from cigarette-caused fires.**

Resisting The Racist Anti-Tribal Campaign

Arthur J. Miller & Al Regan

A Public Statement by the Northwest Leonard Peltier Support Network (NWLPSN).

The anti-tribal movement has become very vocal the last few years in Washington including:

1. The picketing by whites of a tribal smokeshop in Tacoma, when nearby were several white-owned stores selling the same products.

2. The white opposition to the Muckelshoot amphitheater by more people than will ever be affected by it.

3. The elk hunters' rally in Olympia where the leader of the 500 white hunters stated that "if the state did not deal with the Indians, they would".

4. The congressional hearing held in Tukwila on Gorton's bill, where the "White Rights" crowd came out in force, yelling racist slurs at Native people and threatening some with violence.

The anti-tribal movement is well organized and funded. The following elements are known to be a part of this campaign. We will begin with those who have the most to gain.

The anti-democratic, extremist, racist right wing is like a spider web with many connections between groups, share the common goal of the elimination of tribal sovereignty and treaty rights.

THE 'WISE USE' MOVEMENT

Major timber, energy, mining, development and fishing corporations that put their profits ahead of environmental concerns, and want to open up all public and tribal lands for exploitation helped create, direct, and fund what is called the "Wise Use" movement. Ron Arnold, vice-president at Alan Gottlieb's Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise (CDFE) in Bellevue, is one of the movement's originators. The term "Wise Use", as applied to land and resource use, came out of the Multiple Use Strategy Conference in Reno, Nevada in August 1988. The conference was sponsored by the CDFE. Among those in attendance were Exxon, Louisiana-Pacific, Boise Cascade and several right-wing extremist groups such as the American Freedom Coalition and the Citizens Equal Rights Alliance (CERA) — a national alliance of anti-Indian groups. The Wise Use Agenda, a movement handbook that was published after the Reno conference, lists 25 goals including the immediate development of oil resources in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the opening of all national parks and wilderness areas to mining, and the systematic harvest of "decaying" (read "old growth") trees on national forest lands. The CDFE, as sponsor and backer of "Wise Use", advocates overturning or severely restricting the Endangered Species Act, wetlands preservation, the establishment or continuance of National Parks and forests, game and bird preserves, planned growth management, and in general any restriction on corporate activity, regardless of the cost to the environment and the public at large.

"Wise Use" can be considered as the anti-environmental arm of the larger extreme right-wing agenda (with overlap into the "property rights" arm of the movement — see below), which encompasses the entire anti-democratic spectrum of issues: the fight to destroy affirmative action, limiting (non-white) immigration, union-busting, civil rights, and, in general, the campaign to destroy any protection that the government provides individuals and communities against corporate power and greed.

NATIONAL ANTI-TREATY RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

While anti-treaty rights organizations operate in many states, they are linked both independently and through two national organizations — the Interstate Congress for Equal Rights and Responsibilities (ICERR) and Protect Americans' Rights and Resources (PARR). ICERR, founded in 1976, linked on- reservation non-Native landowner opposition to tribal governments with off-reservation non-Native sport and commercial fishermen opposed to tribal treaty protected fishing rights. The organization has received funding from the Joseph Coors Foundation, an extreme right wing organization whose head is also a board member of the Heritage Foundation. PARR, a Wisconsin- based organization formed in 1987, has called for boycotts of Native-owned businesses, opposition to any legal or political decision that would recognize treaty rights, and was active during the Wisconsin and Minnesota spearfishing rights struggles, during which many Natives were subject to racial slurs, physical attacks, and injuries. An independent Wisconsin environmental organization characterized PARR's stance during the spearfishing fight as "blatantly racist". PARR has friends in the extreme right-wing coalition Alliance for America, which also supports abolishing tribal sovereignty and "Wise Use". PARR staff member Larry Peterson is also on the board of the Citizens Equal Rights Alliance (mentioned above under "Wise Use").

NATIONAL `PROPERTY RIGHTS' ORGANIZATIONS

The cutting edge of the extremist right wing anti-government agenda at federal, state, and local levels. From the top levels of the Heritage Foundation, Alliance for America, etc., to state and local groups, the "Property Rights" agenda is to restrict or abolish all regulations and restrictions on private property ownership and use. The movement bills itself as the friend of the individual property owner, and has undertaken and funded numerous legal cases and political campaigns against government "interference"; however, not one of the hundreds of "Property Rights" advocacy and funding groups in the United States has ever, to my knowledge, represented individual property owners against corporate interests.

UNITED PROPERTY OWNERS OF WASHINGTON (UPOW)

Where the "Wise Use", "Property Rights" and organized anti-Native movements converge most strongly in Washington State. UPOW, formed in 1989, was formerly known as the Steelhead and Salmon Protective Association and Wildlife Network (S/SPAWN), which the Environmental Working Group called "an anti-Indian organization disguised as a fishermen's group". UPOW is a coalition of groups and individuals, some of whom have been actively involved in organized anti-Native and anti-tribal activities for years. The group headed the legal and political fight against tribal shell-fishing rights, along with their co-counsel, the Defenders of Property Rights (DoPR). DoPR is a extremist right wing "property rights" advocacy and funding group whose board members include James Watt, Ed Meese, Robert Bork, Sen. Orrin Hatch, and Sen. Larry Craig of Idaho, and is associated with the Heritage Foundation, the Alliance for America, and other right-wing organizations.

THE 'ELK HUNTERS'

This group first made a public appearance when approximately 500 of them held a rally at the steps of the state Capital in Olympia. On that occasion they held signs calling for the elimination of all treaties with the tribes, "White Men Have Rights Too" and other prefabricated slogans. The leader of the group, Mark Smith (who calls himself "a modern day Indian fighter") issued the threat "if the state does not deal with the Indians, we will!" Two weeks later, this group showed up — along with UPOW protesters — at the congressional hearing in Tukwila, where they placed their people on the roads leading to the hearing site and at the entrance to the hearing. Many Native people who had to pass them were met with racist slurs and other insults. Inside the hearings an angry crowd responded to the sound of a Native drum outside by jumping to their feet to sing the Star Spangled Banner, and moments later stood again to shout the Pledge of Allegiance despite the lack of a flag being present to pledge allegiance to. When the Senate Committee entered the room, Sen. Campbell admonished the crowd and told them that any further disturbances would lead to their removal. Outside, members of the NWLPSN maintained a vigil in support of tribal sovereignty, where we were greatly outnumbered, and at times surrounded by the racists. The situation became tense several times: once when they argued with a Lakota activist, another time when some of them verbally abused a Native Elder and NWLPSN member, and later when they tried to block all view of our vigil by walking a picket line in front of us. At one point Mark Smith yelled into his bullhorn "do you know who is the chairman of this hearing? He is an Indian, and we must stop that Indian". As the hearing broke up many Native people joined our vigil, including a number of school kids. A drum was set up and the racists tried to drown out the drumming by singing the national anthem. Once the Native people out numbered the racists they left. At another Rally outside Fish & Wildlife Commission hearings in Olympia, the crowd (again, 500 strong) chanted anti-Native slogans and carried signs reading "State: Stop The Tribes Or We Will" and "New Treaty Or Nothing."

RIGHT WING SO-CALLED CHRISTIAN MOVEMENTS

It is nothing new that far right wing racists use Christianity as a cover for their agenda. In the anti-tribal campaign using Christianity is rather easy given the historical role that many Christian churches had in the eurocentric conquest. Even today that role continues.

The following important issues have led us to our decision to help build a resistance network:

1. The long conflict over fishing and shell-fishing treaty rights between property owners, sport and commercial fishers, and the state of Washington, vs. the tribes.

2. The conflict over treaty hunting rights.

3. The interference of non-Native groups and individuals in the right of the tribes to their self-determination in developing economic enterprises that benefit their people on sovereign tribal land.

4. The claims of some non-Native people that they are not obligated to follow the health, safety and environmental regulations of the tribes while they are on sovereign tribal land, and that the tribes have no jurisdiction over the conduct of any non-tribal people on sovereign tribal land.

5. The continuing efforts of politicians at the state and national level (Slade Gorton and Jack Metcalf being the most prominent in this state) to pass legislation to eliminate tribal sovereignty and Native treaty rights.

6. The efforts by the State of Washington to impose state taxes on sovereign tribal land.

7. The lack of objective and informative media coverage: the daily print media and the TV news have consistently portrayed the conflict(s) as being Native vs. non-Native, without showing that many — possibly even a majority — of non-Native people in this state are not anti-tribal. The media portrays non-Native property owners, hunters, and fishermen as victims of Native tribal treaty rights, while never pointing out all that non-Natives have gained because of the treaties.

The Christian-Patriot Movement seems to be the most active in the anti-tribal campaign. They basically believe in the rights of conquest of the White Christian Nation. They are active in the "Wise Use" movement, and actively helped organize far right wing rural militias. When one of these militias in this state was organized (with the help of the Montana Militia) they stated their anti-tribal beliefs. Next, the Christian Identity Movement, this is the most extreme of the right wing groups. Among their white supremacist ideas, is the idea of the creation of an Aryan Nation, of white people only, here in the northwest. Needless to say such an Aryan Nation would mean the forced removal of the people of the Native Nations. The Christian Identity Movement has been actively recruiting in the South Puget Sound area. Then there is the Christian Coalition. This organization, which is very strong in Washington, openly sides with the "white property owners" and is very active in the overall right wing agenda. Randy Tate, who is now the head of these groups, was part of the right wing campaign to control congress a few years back. He was an ally of Jack Metcalf and Slade Gorton. In his congressional campaigns he openly sided with the "white property owners".

The anti-democratic, extremist, racist right wing is like a spider web with many connections between groups. The various front groups are joined by shared memberships and ideology. All the organizations and movements listed above, along with many others, share the common goal of the elimination of tribal sovereignty and treaty rights.

To be placed on our mailing list and/or to give a much needed donation please contact: NWLPSN, 5201 Capital Blvd, Ste 119, Olympia, WA 98501.

For more information: NWLPSN, P.O. Box 5464, Tacoma, WA 98415-0464, arthurmiller50@juno.com.

Or visit our web page at: http://members.aol.com/TurquoisWm/index.html

Come to the Olympia Rally on May 9th **(see page 18)**

1968 and Now -- We Are . . .

UP AGAINST THE WALL

Ron Jacobs

By late April 1968 at Columbia University it was clear that the issues plaguing the university were not going away. The university continued to insist on its right to build a gym on land then occupied by apartment buildings housing hundreds of Harlem's residents, and hundreds of students and neighborhood residents continued to oppose those plans. In addition, the university's ties to the U. S. defense establishment via its sponsorship of a branch of the Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA) was angering more and more students and younger faculty as the bloodshed in Vietnam increased in volume and intensity. The Institute's rumored involvement in the death of revolutionary Che Guevara didn't help matters, either.

In the minds of the student radicals these issues were not only connected, they shared the same roots. Consequently , those who carried out those policies were equally culpable. That included Grayson Kirk, president of Columbia, just as much as it included Lyndon Johnson and General Westmoreland. That left those who opposed the university's desire to build a gym on land bought out from underneath those who lived on it and its involvement in the war in Vietnam only one route of opposition. Confrontation.

On April 23, 1968, after a march opposing the gym construction, Columbia students and neighborhood residents headed back to the Columbia campus. Enroute, a group of black and white students headed towards Hamilton Hall and took it over. Early the next morning another group of students, including white students asked to leave Hamilton Hall after a consensus reached by the students inside the building, took over the Law Library which housed many of the school's administrative offices. By the end of the following day, a total of six Columbia buildings had been liberated by the students and their sympathizers.

Those of us in the generation represented by the events of 1968, have the opportunity to join and combine what we have learned with what the young radicals of today know.

These occupations continued for several days and nights. Meanwhile, rallies in support of the takeovers took place daily-one even featured an impromptu concert by the Grateful Dead who were in town for a series of shows in Manhattan. These rallies were attacked occasionally by right wing students and professors egged on by plainclothes cops. But those scuffles were nothing compared to the police raid and attack which occurred the night of April 29.

It was this attack which convinced much of the student population who had been previously uncommitted to support the radicals in their demands-which had been increased to include a demand that all disciplinary and legal charges be dropped on those involved in the takeover. The radicals' statement that the university would call in the police and beat its own students before it gave up its ties to the military or changed its construction plans were validated. A strike was called and classes became a joke.

Meanwhile in France, a revolutionary insurrection was erupting. What began as a demonstration against curfew rules in university dormitories in Nanterres spread across France, igniting universities and the streets of Paris. By the middle of May the workers of France had joined in and President DeGaulle was considering launching a military attack against the French people-something which had not occurred in France since the days of the Commune in 1870. Students spent their days holding open organizing meetings in the commons areas of their schools and spent the nights fighting the police. Workers throughout France took over their factories and ran them with workers' councils. Workers in one Renault plant in the hinterlands locked their managers in their office and ran the plant themselves. Their goal was to show how needless management really is.

Then, just as they did at Columbia, the powers regrouped. The workers' political parties-the Communists and the Socialists-reneged on their support of the strike in favor of immediate pay raises and some changes in working conditions. In addition, the Socialists ended up with a substantial share of political power. Although the more conservative Gaullists and their allies did lose some ground and it could be argued that the balance of power shifted in France after May 1968, one would be hard-put to prove that now.

At Columbia (as a microcosm of the United States) and in France, the corporate powers are more entrenched than ever. Students still protest, only now it's just to get a bit of recognition for the decreased status of youth in their respective societies. As recently as two years ago in France students and workers took to the streets to maintain decent wages for young people. At Columbia, students took over the Law Library that same year in protest of policies which favored the majority wealthy white student population. Neither set of protests called into question the role of the university in the corporate state, like those of 1968 did. Like the European student leader Daniel Cohn-Bendit said: "the present educational structure ensures that the majority of working-class children are barred not only from the bourgeois society we are trying to overthrow, but also from the intellectual means to see through it." (Obsolete Communism: The Left-Wing Alternative)

In an even more fundamental way, these words are true today. What with the rapid increase in the cost of post high-school education, the plummet in the availability and amount of government student aid, the lack of support by those same governments for K-12 public education resulting in the destruction of the educational infrastructure and the continuing "dumbing down" of our children, working class youth are more disenfranchised not only from our educational system, they are removed from society itself. Unfortunately, they also seem to be at a loss as to how to combat that removal. While certain campuses maintain a healthy oppositional culture which expresses itself both socially and politically, many more do not. Working class youth and those youth who have rejected their privilege continue to congregate in the larger cities forming youth "ghettoes" and cultures, but at this point on the eve of the millenium, most youth are reduced, like their older counterparts to merely figuring out a way to survive. Unfortunately, many of their elders who have "made it" economically (and who were once part of the generation of 1968) insist on criminalizing (or increasing the penalties for those already illegal) the very same acts they trumpeted when they were young: drug use, open sexuality, opposition to the empire, etc. The acts they have not succeeded in criminalizing (and some of those they have) are commodified, leaving young people feeling cynical even about justifiable acts of rebellion-as they perceive today's revolutionary act to be tomorrow's soft drink commercial.

Of course, it would probably take only a single spark to ignite a new prairie fire. Recent protests against the threat of renewed hostilities against the people of Iraq and for the release of North American political prisoners have been decidedly radical in character. Although these protests have drawn only a small number of participants up to now, this could change quickly. In addition, those of us in the generation represented by the events of 1968 who have not taken the road traveled by Bill Clinton or Francois Mitterand have the opportunity to join and combine what we have learned with what the young radicals of today know. The grass on the prairie is very dry. •

SUPPORT MUMIA AND OTHER SCI GREENE PRISONERS ON HUNGER STRIKE!

In a letter to Susan Burnett, Mumia writes:

HUNGER STRIKE REINSTATED

I want you to know that the Hunger Strike has been reinstated. According to my latest info, 14 guys are presently on, as of this morning.

The key issue, as I suggested to you in my earlier letter, is legal material; I just want to point out that the situation of the Department of Corrections vis-a-vis men on death row has changed dramatically in the last few years. Under relatively new statutory authority, the DOC now may sign a death warrant. Thus, no longer are they neutral state agents, they are active agents of death. In this context, the tampering, custody and control of a man's legal materials seems starkly and unquestionably malevolent. - Mumia Abu-Jamal

Send Protests to:

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge
225 Main Capitol Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Tel: 717-787-2500 Fax: 717-783-4429

Martin F. Horn, Secretary Commissioner, PA. DOC
2520 Lisburn Road
P. O. Box 598
Camp Hill, PA 17001-0598
Tel: 717-975-4859 Fax: 717-787-1758

Benjamin Varner, Superintendent SCI Greene
1030 East Roy Furman Hwy.
Waynesburg, PA 15370-8020
Phone: 412-852-2902 Fax: 412-852-2909

Olympia Mumia Support Group
Meeting on May 4th
7pm in Liberation Cafe

MUMIA FACT SHEET NO. 20

Vicious New Attack by Prison

On March 5, 1998, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections launched a new statewide attack on its death row inmates. Guards swept through cells boxing up and hauling off the personal property of inmates, and vicious new regulations were posted. Dozens of inmates responded with a righteous hunger strike.

Stung by repeated inmate law suits to correct prison conditions, and prevented by a federal court from singling out Mumia Abu-Jamal for special restrictions, the state has attacked the entire death-row population.

SCI Greene, where Mumia is held captive, is already a sterile landscape of endless white walls. But now death row inmates are issued a single rough canvas jump suit with blue and white stripes, two sets of underwear, one writing pen, and some toilet articles.

In addition, commissary privileges have been gutted and no food items may be obtained or kept in cells (an obvious hazard for diabetics and those on special diets). Exercise is now limited to one hour, five days per week, "weather permitting."

Under the new regulations, each prisoner is issued a single box approximately 12' x 12' x 16' in which he must keep ALL legal, personal and school papers! Any- thing that won't fit in that box must now be shipped out at that inmate's expense, or be destroyed by prison officials. A new newspaper can be obtained only by turning in the previous issue.

In Mumia's case, guards removed 17 boxes of books and papers from his cell on March 5. This virtually ends his ability to complete his master's degree, to utilize the thousands of pages of transcripts and legal briefs in his case, or keep up with news about events in society which is critical to his ability to make key defense decisions.

Along the Color Line

Black Political Prisoners: Abdul Haqq & Assata Shakur

Dr. Manning Marable

On March 27, five thousand people gathered in Washington DC to demand the release of about two hundred political prisoners unjustly held today in the United States. Starting in the morning at Malcolm X Park, protestors marched across the city arriving to demonstrate at Lafayette Park, directly in front of the White House. Called "Jericho '98," the mass rally brought together representatives from Latino, American Indian, African American and other protest movements.

Angela Y. Davis, a leading black feminist scholar and former political prisoner, highlighted a series of powerful speakers and cultural presentations, including American Indian activist Dennis Banks, Ramona Africa of the MOVE organization, and recently released political prisoner Geronimo Pratt. Imprisoned twenty-seven years for a crime that he did not commit, Pratt urged demonstrators to take greater action against the injustices of the prison industrial complex.

"Jericho '98" reminds us that the American media and the political establishment refuse to acknowledge that hundreds of men and women are incarcerated in this country. By falsifying and destroying evidence, intimidating witnesses, and physically assaulting prisoners, law enforcement officers and government authorities are guilty of gross violations of human rights. Some of their most prominent political victims include: American Indian Movement activist Leonard Peltier, who was framed for a murder and imprisoned almost quarter of a century; Janine Phillips Africa of the MOVE organization; Marshall Eddie Conway of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense; Sekou Odinga of the Black Liberation Army; Angela Davis's former co-defendant, Ruchell Magee, who has been a political prisoner for nearly 30 years; and of course the courageous journalist/activist Mumia Abu Jamal.

There are hundreds of "legal lynchings" inside the U.S. each year. Consider, for example, the case of Abdul Haqq.

Abdul Haqq is a fifty year old black man who, throughout his life, has been active in efforts to empower the African American community. In early 1980s, Haqq was a leader in the campaign to eradicate illegal drugs from black neighborhoods in Cleveland. Relocating to New York City, Haqq participated in starting the Black Men's Movement Against Crack (BMM), which mobilized African Americans to fight drugs. In 1986, Haqq established the Harvey Brown Youth Brigade, a community organization teaching black and Latino youths self defense and ways to resolve conflicts nonviolently.

When Haqq's and others' efforts led to charges that New York Police Department (NYPD) officers' were involved in drug trafficking, the cops decided that enough was enough. The New York media soon exposed that an illegal NYPD counter intelligence surveillance unit was tracking the BMM's activities. In 1987, Haqq and two other BMM members in a car were stopped by police and framed on gun possession charges. Abdul Haqq was convicted of weapons possession and was forced to spend eight years in prison.

Upon his release, Haqq immediately returned to black community organizing and the education of African American youth. When an African American male, Aswan Keshawn Watson, was gunned down by the NYPD, Haqq became involved in the local mobilization against this blatant case of police misconduct and brutality. Once again, law enforcement agencies determined that Haqq was creating too many problems on the "outside." He would have to be silenced by being returned to prison.

Abdul Haqq was arrested and charged with the murder of a Cleveland tavern owner back in 1984. Incredibly, the old murder case was "reopened" according to authorities, because a police informant or "jail house snitch" told Cleveland police that he now recalled having "overheard" Haqq tell someone else that he had murdered the bar owner. This mysterious testimony, without a shred of actual physical evidence, forced Haqq back to jail.

After public pressure, Haqq was finally released on $50,000 bail and is out awaiting trial. However, Haqq has been ordered by the judge not to leave the Cleveland area. He is unable to return to his home in New York to raise funds and gather evidence for his defense. If convicted, Haqq will be incarcerated probably for the rest of his life.

Can we stand by silently when innocent, dedicated black activists like Abdul Haqq are unjustly imprisoned? In defense of our communities, our children and ourselves, we must actively oppose these violations of Constitutional and human rights.

*****

Three years ago during a visit to Havana, Cuba, I had the wonderful experience of having dinner with former political prisoner Assata Shakur. We talked for hours about the struggles of black people inside the U.S., as well as the important changes taking place in Cuban society. Last summer, with a delegation of African American scholar\activists, I had another opportunity to talk with sister Assata. She is, politically and personally, one of the most beautiful black women in the world.

I mention all of this because if you have read the newspapers or listened to the corporate dominated media recently, you'll get a very different impression about Assata. New Jersey's Republican Governor Christine Todd Whitman had launched a shrill public relations campaign to "get Assata Shakur from her life in exile inside Cuba. Whitman declares that the U.S. government should never "normalize" relations with Cuba unless and until Assata is surrendered. Governor Whitman has even offered a $50,000 bounty for anyone who returns Assata in chains.

Who is Assata Shakur? On May 2, 1973, three members of the Black Panther Party — Assata Shakur, Zayd Shakur and Sundiata Acoli — were stopped by state police on the New Jersey Turnpike. In the shootout that followed, Zayd Shakur and one state trooper were killed. Assata was shot once with her hands in the air, then shot in the back, and left on the ground to die. As Assata laid bleeding, other state troopers waited, coming back to her body impatiently, asking "Is she dead yet?"

Assata says, "Finally when it was obvious that I was not going to die right then, I was taken to a hospital, where I was chained to a bed. I was beaten, tortured, kept incommunicado for four or five days, and I was denied any rights to see a lawyer." While shackled, New Jersey State troopers jabbed her with shotgun butts and threatened to kill her. She was tried and found guilty by an all white jury, sentenced to serve life plus an additional thirty years and thirty days.

Finally when it was obvious that I was not going to die right then, I was taken to a hospital, where I was chained to a bed. I was beaten, tortured, kept incommunicado for four or five days, and I was denied any rights to see a lawyer. - Assata

Assata spent a total of six years in prison. For more than two years she was held in solitary confinements inside a men's prison, under 24 hour surveillance of her most intimate functions, without exercise, an adequate diet or proper medical care.

With the help of many people, Assata successfully escaped from prison and immediately went underground. Despite massive FBI and police efforts, Assata managed to reach Cuba and was granted political asylum.

There is no question that if Assata Shakur is involuntarily returned to the U.S. that she will be imprisoned for life, and very possibly murdered by state authorities. The only other Black Panther who survived the 1973 shootout, Sundiata Acoli, is sixty one years old and remains in prison to this day. No new trial could possibly be fair, since part of the trial transcripts have been lost and crucial evidence has "disappeared."

Hundreds of African Americans and other progressives have issued a public statement condemning Governor Whitman's efforts to extradite Assata Shakur. Their statement declares: "The stellar example of Assata's commitment to the liberty of people of African descent in the United States places her in the company of not only Harriet Tubman, but also Paul Robeson, Fannie Lou Hamer, Malcolm X and the thousands of other known and unknown warriors in the fight for the liberation of black people in the United States. . .Assata is our Sister and we stand in absolute solidarity with her right to live free from bondage in Cuba."

Despite her years of imprisonment and exile, Assata retains a deeply spiritual and hopeful belief in humanity, and especially the political possibilities for all people of African decent. In her own words, Assata states: "One of the things that made me want to join the struggle was walking down the street and someone saying 'sister.' It stopped me in my tracks. I wasn't used to it, because I had only heard it in church before. . .But when I heard young people addressing each other as sister, brother and meaning it, trying to live that out, trying to make each of our homes a safe space for each other, then it inspired me to understand that life can be lived on another level. We don't have to live in hell." •

Political Prisoner Leonard Peltier Update

by Bobby Castillo, international spokesperson for Leonard Peltier and Elsie Herten, coordinator LPSG Network Europe

Leonard's next parole hearing will be May 4th. We are encouraging people to write letters to the US Parole Commission. The letters should stress the importance of Leonard being with his family and the Native American community who he has continued to reach out to despite his years of incarceration.

It looks unlikely that the Senate will schedule the Pine Ridge Hearings as they have decided to give themselves a short session which ends in May. Meanwhile the "Justice" Department is busy investigating the charges against themselves. They are also bringing in the reservation Criminal Investigators who are instructed to answer Robert Ecoffey who was directly involved with the "Justice" Department and the Pine Ridge shoot-out in the 1970s. Being that the "Justice" Department provides the funding for Reservation Law Enforcement, they obviously control the program.

Send letters regarding parole:
US Parole Commission
5550 Friendship Blvd.
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Fax (301) 492-6694

Note: letters must state at the top:
<for Parole File of Leonard Peltier
Reg. No. 89637-132> If this is not
stated, your letter will be thrown away...

Send letters regarding senate hearing:
US Senator Orin Hatch,
Chairman Judicial Cmtee
SD-224 1st and C Streets, NE
Washington DC 20510

US Senator Benn Nighthorse Campbell
Chair Select Cmtee on Indian Affairs
SH-838 1st and C Streets, NE
Washington DC 20510

Jericho '98 March and Rally

Ph

With shouts of, "Free the Land," and "On the Move" more than 7,000 people marched and rallied in front of the White House on Friday, March over 150 political prisoners/prisoners of war currently incarcerated in the U.S.

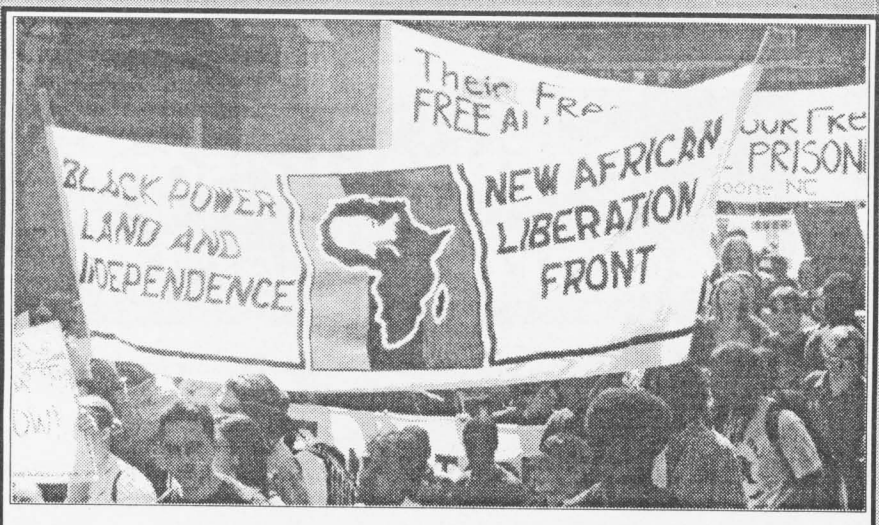
Jericho '98, sponsored by the Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika and the New Afrikan Liberation Front and endorsed by over 50 organizations and individuals committed to freedom for America's political prisoners was designed to:

1. Educate people about the existence of political prisoners and prisoners of war in the United States; 2. Gain support for these political prisoners and prisoners of war; 3. Force the United States government to recognize and acknowledge their existence; and 4. Win amnesty and freedom for all political prisoners and prisoners of war in this country.

The idea for the Jericho '98 march originated with Black Liberation Army prisoner Jalil A. Muntaqim. Jalil writes, "It is important that you understand this historical reality when considering why political prisoners exist. It is important that you understand this when considering the ramifications and impact COINTELPRO had on our communities. For as a result of COINTELPRO effectively destroying the militant and revolutionary organizations in our communities, drugs and police brutality increased proportionately."

He continues, "The agenda of Jericho '98 is very simple. It is to demand recognition and amnesty for U.S. political prisoners. We are here to serve notice on the White House and the world that our freedom fighters will not be abandoned and forgotten. Rather, for as long as they languish in U.S. prisons we will rebuild our movement to struggle not only to free them, but to free ourselves from the tyranny of white supremacy and exploitation. We will liken the struggle of freeing political prisoners with the struggle for jobs, housing, education and health care. We will link the struggle of freeing political prisoners with the struggle to end police brutality and murder. We will link the struggle for freeing political prisoners with the class and national liberation struggle to free Puerto Rico, securing Native American sovereignty, and the liberation of New Afrika. There cannot be a peoples' struggle where political prisoners are not included; there cannot be a struggle concerning political prisoners where peoples' issues are excluded."

Participants in the march, which spanned two lanes of traffic for more than five city blocks, c prisoners and passed out flyers, newspapers and petitions along the route. The multi-generation supporters of Puerto Rican Independistas, AIM supporters, young anarchists, maoists, New Af



There was a particular irony in rallying at the White House on March 27th. The day before, Bill Clinton had stood in the very jail cell that held Nelson Mandela for 27 years, condemning South Africa's apartheid regime and the injustice suffered by Mandela. Standing next to geronimo ji jaga, recently released, also after 27 years of incarceration for a crime he clearly did not commit, convicted because the FBI withheld evidence of his innocence, framed by COINTELPRO for his activities as a Black Panther, this irony could not be ignored. The U.S. holds itself up as the purveyor of justice throughout the world, while committing and denying the most heinous violations of human rights.

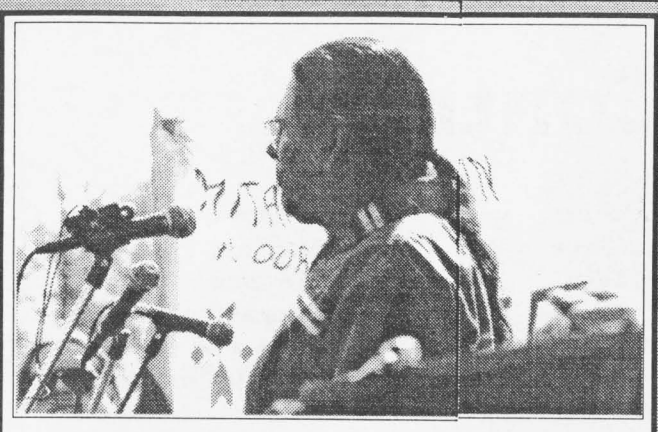
The day began at Malcolm X Park, 3 1/2 miles and an economic world away from the White House. As people gathered, libation was poured, music played and the first names read from the list of U.S. political prisoners. The roll call would continue throughout the day, with shouts of "Presente" or "In the House" in response to each name. Each prisoner's case has a common thread - the role of the U.S. government through the FBI and COINTELPRO in withholding, manipulating and falsifying evidence to ensure not only false convictions but also sentences that far exceed the average sentence for similar convictions. The average prisoner in the U.S. convicted of a violent crime serves 2-4 1/2 years. Most of these political prisoners have served upwards of 20 years. Enough is enough.

The march arrived in Lafayette Park at around noon. The cheering crowd stayed put for six hours in the blazing, 86 degree heat. Speakers such as Kathleen Cleaver and Angela Davis roused the crowd, reminding of the importance of the struggle and urging everyone to take the fight back home.

Photo Essay by Grace Cox

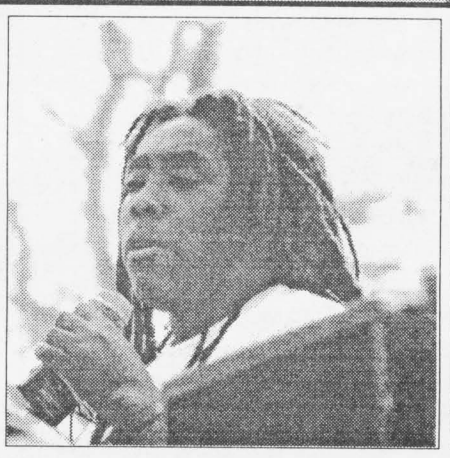
y, March 27th to demand freedom for

ity blocks, carried photos and drawings of political i-generational crowd included young Bruderhoffs, sts, New Afrikan liberationists and more.



Dennis Banks brought greetings from Leonard Peltier and gave an update on his case. About a year ago a rumor spread through the media that Leonard was being released. Since the sources seemed credible, lots of folks thought that the struggle to free Leonard was finally over. As we know now, that rumor was not true and Leonard is still locked down.

The family of Russell "Maroon" Shoats, Black Panther Party political prisoner, came out 40 strong to support him and other political prisoners. In his statement to Jericho '98, Shoats says, "One must ask what kind of government can condemn, ridicule and hold accountable every other country who has committed similar oppressive acts against its citizens, while for almost 30 years they have been subjecting its own citizens to all manners of brutal, inhuman and deadly treatment?"



Ramona and Pam Africa, along with other members of the MOVE organization, represented the MOVE 9. It is difficult to tell the MOVE story briefly. Following the teachings of naturalist John Africa, the MOVE family shared a house in Philadelphia and spread the message of sacredness of all living things. MOVE was repeatedly subjected to police harassment, including numerous brutal beatings of pregnant MOVE women, resulting in miscarriages and still births. In one case, on March 28th, 1976, 10 Philadelphia cops attacked the MOVE house. Janine Africa was grabbed by a cop and thrown to the ground with 3 week-old Life Africa in her arms. The cop stomped her into unconsciousness and crushed the baby's skull.

On August 8, 1978, under the guise of serving a civil eviction notice, 500 Philadelphia police and SWAT members assaulted MOVE, flooding the home and attacking with M16's, .50 caliber rifles, uzis, tear gas, smoke bombs and grenades. The MOVE members took refuge in the basement, holding children and animals high overhead out of the rising waters. During the police assault, officer James Ramp was killed by a bullet that entered high in his body and traveled downward and at an angle that could not possibly have come from the MOVE basement. When the MOVE members had surrendered the house was bulldozed to cover up any evidence of innocence. In spite of the lack of evidence, not to mention the fact that nine people cannot fire one bullet, 9 MOVE members were convicted of murder.

Although the U.S. government claims to have stopped COINTELPRO in the '70's, supporters of FALN (Fuerzas Armadas para la Liberacion Nacional), the Puerto Rican independence movement, know that COINTELPRO tactics are still being used. In the Special Jericho Edition of LIBERTAD, the newsletter of the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners, Ramon tells the story of one early morning in February, as a group of independistas meet to demonstrate support for Jose Solis, a university professor accused of terrorism. They are gathering at the Puerto Rican Cultural Center. Ramon reports, "Upon closing the door, we see a man in front of the building. We look at him and he returns our stare. He is tall, white and unknown. His face is totally strange, but his presence is familiar. He is an FBI agent whose work consists of observing the comings and goings of people under government surveillance." He goes on to describe a massive disinformation campaign against the Independence Movement, including publishing false papers, making false accusations, contacting neighbors and employers and spreading false rumors about individuals involved in the movement, and placing agents provocateur in the organization itself.

The Puerto Rican independence movement has 12 members currently locked down in the U.S. All are serving time for seditious conspiracy and the sentences range from 30 years to 110 years. These FALN members have received support nationally and internationally and are generally recognized as prisoners of war in the struggle for national liberation against the colonization of Puerto Rico by the United States.

Michael Africa, who survived the 1978 attack, and other MOVE children performed two of Michael's rap songs at the rally. The performance was especially poignant given that Merle Africa, one of the MOVE 9, died under very suspicious circumstances in prison 14 days before the march.

The day ended with Safiya Bukhari, First Vice President of the Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika and National Coordinator for Jericho '98, and Michael Africa, who closed the day's events with his well-known rap, "Just because it's legal don't make it right."

Author's favorite sign.

PCUN Oregon Farmworker Union Signs First Contract

Bayla Ostrach

WOODBURN, OR.- "We will win more contracts and have PCUN as our union," asserted Job Pozos Jr. on Cesar Chavez Day, Tuesday, March 31st. He spoke as a member of the negotiating committee as the Oregon farmworker union, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN, which is translated as Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United) and an organic grower signed the first collective bargaining agreement in the history of Oregon agriculture. This is only the second collective bargaining agreement between farmworkers and growers to be signed in the Pacific Northwest.

Workers representing the committee which negotiated the terms of the contract signed the two-year binding agreement along with Ramon Ramirez, the President of PCUN, and Scott Frost of Nature's Fountain Farm, a transitional 26-acre organic farm.

At the ceremony, Job Pozos Jr., one of the signers of the contract, and at 16 years old the youngest member of the negotiating committee, had these words to say, " This will show the growers that there are people like PCUN to make changes out in the fields where our RAZA are working and it will make all of us come together and fight together without using violence, to win more contracts and have PCUN as our union. We will not take any more threats from the growers and they will not scare any more of my RAZA [Mexican people]! "

Scott Frost, the owner of Nature's Fountain Farm, which markets organic blueberries and strawberries, shared his reasons for breaking ranks with his peers, all of whom have strongly resisted even talking to PCUN, " ... it is my hope that in creating an example, a working model, that Nature's Fountain Farm can be a place where labor and ownership can work together as one, to open a window to change and growth."

Ramon Ramirez, the President of Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, eloquently stated; "When we embarked on this work over twenty years ago, we knew it would be long and difficult. Many of the rights and protections enjoyed by working people in this country are not afforded to the farmworkers. Growers have resisted our efforts to bring about fair treatment and justice in the fields. In order to make collective bargaining a reality we have had to take our struggle to the fields, to the courts, to the legislature, to the media, to people of conscience, and lastly to the consumer."

Juanita Cox-Valdez, Director of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO' Centro 16 de septiembre in Texas, read a statement from UFW President Arturo Rodriguez which said, "PCUN's determined efforts mirror the UFW's 36-year struggle to bring a measure of dignity and security for farm workers in our country. Announcement of this first collective bargaining agreement in Oregon is a milestone for both of our unions. We rejoice with our sisters and brothers in PCUN. Their victory is also our own."

Senator Ron Wyden, in a written statement of support, echoed the sentiments of the UFW. "In the future, I expect we will look back on today's agreement as a key moment from which both workers and growers began to progress toward a cooperative atmosphere to the benefit of themselves and indeed all of Oregon."

Frost has trully broken new ground. Until Tuesday, Oregon growers had steadfastly refused all efforts to sit down face to face with farmworkers, much less negotiate with their representative, PCUN. Grower members of the the food processor NORPAC have responded to farmworker calls of union recognition by firing, evicting, and even using physical violence against those farmworkers. NORPAC growers have also refused calls from unions and the religious community for mediated negotiations. In addition, growers statewide have organized themselves into the Council for Agricultural Employers to better fight PCUN's efforts. In addition, members of Oregon's Congressional delegation are proposing "guestworker" legislation to allow the importation of temporary foreign workers, as a blatant attempt to break the growing movement for unionization in the region. In the United States, farmworkers are not covered under the historic National Labor Relations Act of the 1930's, which guarantees most other workers protection for union organizing.

For the first time, a group of workers have set the terms of their own employment, and they are now guaranteed breaks, overtime after 40 hours, holidays, and seniority.

So, in signing this contract, the PCUN members who work at Nature's Fountain Farm become the first recognized union-represented farmworkers in the state. For the first time, a group of workers have set the terms of their own employment, and they are now guaranteed breaks, overtime after 40 hours, holidays, and seniority. Ramirez called on the labor and religious communities and consumers in general to continue supporting farmworkers by purchasing union label blueberries and strawberries as well as continue supporting the five year boycott of NORPAC and Gardenburger products. The signing ceremony and press conference that followed were public events and guests came from all over the state.

From this day forward, any farmworker employed at Nature's Fountain Farm will be a member of PCUN. Specifically, the contract, which currently covers 20 workers and will cover more as Mr. Frost expands his production, ensures that wages will be re-negotiated after one year and that leaves of absence will not affect seniority. If a worker becomes sick or injured on the job and has to leave in the middle of a workday, he or she will still be paid the full amount for that day. Workers at Nature's Fountain Farm are now guaranteed breaks and overtime pay after 40 hours. In addition, Nature's Fountain Farm will not allow any INS official to come onto the farm without a warrant. Moreover, union organizers will have access to the farm to talk to workers, and union information will be made available to the workers on the job-site. By far the most important element of the contract is the recognition of the workers' right to choose their own representation, specifically, the recognition of PCUN. The union has struggled tirelessly since its founding in 1985 to support farmworkers in changing the balance of power between the growers and the people who work the fields and live in the sub-standard housing provided to them on inhumane terms.

PCUN, which currently has 4,300 members, who voluntarily joined and pay dues, began as the Willamette Valley Law Project in the late 70's. In 1985, 80 workers founded Pineros y Campesinos Unidos (Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United). Farmworkers have voluntarily joined the union. Generally known by its Spanish acronym, PCUN also runs a Service Center for its members, and for 8 years has had a boycott of FLAV-R-PAC and GardenBurger products. This boycott is designed to pressure NORPAC, a cooperative owned by some 250 Oregon growers, to call on its member growers around the state to negotiate collective bargaining agreements. FLAV-R-PAC is the brand name under which NORPAC Foods markets its own frozen and canned vegetables, and GardenBurger products, manufactured by Gardenburger Inc., are distributed by NORPAC Food Sales.

Despite the hard work ahead, this historic step toward real respect and dignity for farmworkers is an exciting and unprecedented event for Oregon and her people, from farmworkers, union organizers and community members to politicians and growers. •

PCUN

Eat Out for Justice

P.C.U.N., the farmworker and treeplanter union headquartered in Woodburn, Oregon,is in the middle of a struggle to win contracts with Norpac, a grower collective in the Willamette Valley,and has called for a boycott of Gardenburgers. Gardenburger is one of the largest customers of the farmer collective and has been unwilling to sincerely communicate with P.C.U.N.

Many people sympathetic to the farmworkers cause groan when asked to boycott Gardenburgers. There are quality foods that can meet the same dietary need. The Olympia Food Co-operative stocks them.

These local restaurants have switched and no longer serve Gardenburgers (Please thank them when you go there)**:**

The Budd Bay Cafe
Darby's
Sara's Kitchen
Pipers Lady

The Evergreen State College and The Olympia Food Coop dropped this product last year (always leaders.) The Spar is looking into other products and will hopefully drop Gardenburgers.

Student supporters of PCUN,many of whom have visited the fields in Oregon to talk with Union staff and the farmworkers they serve,have been talking with local restaurants, have convinced those named above to support the farmworkers and have identified others who continue to serve Gardenburgers.

The Community Group working in support of PCUN asks you to EAT OUT OLYMPIA the weekend of May 8,9 and 10. It's a simple idea (we're that kind of folks.) We are asking you to EAT OUT in Olympia at one of the local restaurants named below and talk to the manager about the boycott and ask them to replace Gardenburgers on their menu. Or hand the manager or a waitperson a Garden Card . Or simply leave one on the table (with your tip) when you leave. You can pick up supplies of these cards to leave at restaurants at the Liberation Cafe.

Pretty straightforward, hey, and it allows you to be active according to your mood, while EATING OUT in Olympia.

These are the restaurants we ask you to visit the weekend of May 8-10 :

Bob's Big Burgers on Harrison and at its location on Martin Way;
Falls Terrace
The Urban Onion
Cattins in Tumwater
J-Vee Health Foods on Pacific
Eagan's Drive-In in Tumwater
Ruby's on 4th Ave.
The Place on Mud Bay
King Solomon's Reef
The Emperor's Palace at its locations on Cooper Point Road and Martin Way
The Rib Eye on upper 4th.

These places have been talked with about the boycott and continue to serve Gardenburgers. Drop by, have a meal and talk with them about why you want them to support the farmworker cause.

Questions? Call Harry - 956-9256.

The MAI "Shell Game"

Public Citizen

"We are writing the constitution of single global economy. . . . The question is where - not whether - work on trade and investment should take place." Renato Ruggiero, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), October 8, 1996 speech presented to the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board.

Growing awareness that the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), currently under negotiation at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), could have potentially far- reaching and negative impacts on state sovereignty, economic development, national financial stability and environmental, health, safety and labor standards has precipitated a general public outcry against the agreement. It has even dampened enthusiasm among parliamentary bodies, possibly throwing the MAI's future into question. But the MAI's principles are part of larger effort on the part of multinational investors and the trade ministries of the U.S. and E.U. to globalize investment. Their most recent effort culminated in the December 1997 Financial Services Agreement in the World Trade Organization (WTO), where many members were forced to open their banking, insurance and securities sectors to foreign ownership and competition. A strategic retreat at the OECD may thus prove part of a shell game in which the MAI's agenda may wane in one venue only to wax in others like the WTO, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), or in future regional trade blocs like the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

What is the Investment Agenda for the New Global Economy?

Under this agenda, the ability of the world's largest multinational investors to move their money in and out of countries with no strings attached is the primary goal, even if it hurts the majority of the world's workers and businesses. For these purposes, multinational investors are often given the following rights and freedoms:

- the right to compete against domestic companies in all economic sectors;
- the right to acquire any business or property in any economic sector, including natural resources and other strategic industries;
- the right to convert currency and move money across national boundaries at will. This can create currency crises like those that caused the collapse of the Mexican peso or the more recent Asian financial meltdown;
- the right to relocate production facilities at will, regardless of any negative impacts on workers or the host community;
- the freedom from performance requirements, or conditions placed on investment to ensure that the local community benefits.

These would include requirements to hire a certain number of citizens, form partnerships with domestic businesses or governments, or buy from local suppliers; and the right to sue governments for restitution and damages should an investor feel its rights have been violated under the agreement.

And Where is Work on the Globalization of Investment Taking Place? Just About Everywhere.

SHELL #1: THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD):

The OECD is comprised of 29 industrialized, mostly wealthy countries. It conducts and publishes research and draws up rules on international economic policy, which traditionally have been enacted globally through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), now the WTO).

PLAN TO ADVANCE GLOBAL INVESTMENT AGENDA: The OECD's MAI is the most ambitious attempt to date to develop comprehensive rules requiring countries to liberalize (open all sectors of the economy to international competition) and to give foreign investors powerful rights against governments. Negotiators and proponents have good reason to ensure that the MAI survives in the OECD. Many Third World nations are liberalizing their economies in the absence of the MAI. By restricting the negotiations to OECD members but pressuring Third World countries to sign on, the industrialized world alone writes the rules of the global economy.

PUBLIC ACCESS: The OECD has no institutional identity outside of the governments of its 29 member nations. Its negotiating meetings are closed and its documents are kept confidential. Concerned organizations found out exactly what negotiators were up to only after a 150-page draft of the agreement was leaked to the public in early 1997 - a full two years after negotiations were launched.

SHELL #2: THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO):

The WTO is the forum where representatives from its 132 member-nations negotiate trade and investment agreements. It was created during the Uruguay Round of the 1994 GATT negotiations. It enables countries to challenge each other's regulatory laws, and has the power to enforce any rulings set down by arbitration panels.

PLAN TO ADVANCE GLOBAL INVESTMENT AGENDA: The WTO has convened study groups on global investment rules and has invited the OECD to submit proposals for multilateral investment rules for WTO members - conceptually identical to the MAI - termed the Multilateral Investment Agreement (MIA). Proposals could be submitted as early as May 1998. If adopted in the WTO, investment rules would automatically bind its 132 industrialized and underdeveloped member-nations. Should MAI negotiators reach an impasse in the OECD, they could press to initiate formal negotiations in the WTO.

PUBLIC ACCESS: Work in the WTO is even less transparent than at the OECD, as it tends to involve simultaneous negotiations on a myriad of topics, making its agenda difficult to track. Dispute proceedings are closed to the public.

SHELL #3: THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF):

The IMF provides loans, mostly to poor countries who are short of hard currency for international transactions. It is majority funded, and controlled, by the five wealthiest countries (U.S., Germany, Japan, France, and U.K.). Critics point out that its enforcement of high interest rates slows economic growth and causes widespread unemployment in borrower countries. It forces rigid fiscal austerity programs on loan recipients that require deep cuts in public services like healthcare, education, and infrastructure development.

MAI could have potentially far-reaching and negative impacts on state sovereignty, economic development, national financial stability and environmental, health, safety and labor standards has precipitated a general public outcry against the agreement.

PLAN TO ADVANCE GLOBAL INVESTMENT AGENDA: The Fund proposes to amend its Articles of Agreement to allow it to require member countries to sell off assets to foreign investors, open up sectors of the economy to foreign competition, and remove controls on the movement of capital. To multinational investors, Third World countries present the most daunting obstacles to investment. The amendment could be a backdoor way of forcing desperate Asian nations and destitute underdeveloped countries to liberalize when they normally would resist the pressure from richer industrialized countries.

PUBLIC ACCESS: IMF proceedings and agreements are conducted in secret. There are no recorded votes. The specific terms of loans are always confidential. It is therefore difficult to hold the IMF and its national representatives accountable to the public. However, the U.S., with its 18% voting share, could veto the proposal to amend the IMF Articles of Agreement, which requires an 85% majority.

Martin Khor is Director of the Third World Network. 228, Macalister Road, 10400 Penang, Malaysia. Email: twn@igc.apc.org; twnpen@twn.po.my Tel: (604)229-3511, 229-3612 & 229-3713; Fax: (604)229-8106 & 226-4505

To get involved locally, call South Sound MAI Not! at 754-9585. Currently South Sound MAI Not! is involved in a campaign to have MAI Free Zone Resolution adopted by the three local city councils. •

The Olympia Food Co-op

Olympia Food Co-op

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The Olympia Food Co-op

921 N Rogers, 754-7666

Olympia Food Co-op East

3111 Pacific, 956-3870

Open every day! 9 AM to 8 PM

NGOS MOUNT PROTESTS AGAINST MAI

Third World Network

The Multilateral Agreement on Investment is facing growing opposition in many of the OECD countries. As a result, they are asking for many exemptions from the treaty's obligations, causing doubts as to whether the MAI will be concluded this year. Martin Khor reports on the recent NGO protests against the agreement in this second of two articles.

As delegations from the 29 rich OECD countries met in Paris in February 1998 to continue negotiations on a Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), citizen groups staged protest actions demanding the treaty talks be suspended or scrapped altogether.

In recent weeks, there has been an upsurge of activities from a broad coalition of consumer, environmental, development and public citizen groups in Europe, the United States, Canada and Australia, challenging the rationale and effects of the MAI in their own countries as well as on developing nations.

This is a new and significant development, as previously the concerns about the MAI have come mainly from NGOs and governments in developing countries.

Recently, however, since the full text of the draft MAI was leaked to a Canadian group, many Northern NGOs have been expressing outrage at what they see as the devastating effects of the treaty on their own societies, including on national sovereignty, the environment and consumer interests.

Concern and protests against the MAI have thus spread to the OECD countries themselves. Groups in many countries launched a series of actions in an 'International Week of Action' on 7-17 February 1998.

Partly due to this public opposition, the MAI negotiations are facing difficulties. Many countries have placed a long list of reservations, asking for exemptions from the treaty's obligations for several sectors or activities.

After the recent meeting, there are now doubts that the treaty will be concluded this year as scheduled.

This gives developing countries, which are suspicious of the MAI and concerned about its potential effects, more breathing space and time to study the treaty.

'The MAI would give foreign corporations unprecedented power to directly challenge Governments' environmental, health, worker and other laws, or circumvent them entirely,' said a circular letter sponsored by an international coalition of NGOs.

In a statement addressed to the OECD, endorsed by 565 environmental, development, labour, consumer, church and women's organisations from 67 countries, the coalition of groups called on the OECD to suspend the negotiations for the MAI.

The NGOs said that the MAI does not deserve to gain democratic approval in any country. 'It does not respect the rights of countries - in particular countries in transition and developing countries - including their need to democratically control investment into their economies.

'The level of liberalisation contained in the MAI has already been opposed as inappropriate by many developing countries. However, non-OECD countries are under increasing pressure to join,' said the statement.

Public campaigns launched by these groups have already had significant results in some countries. In Canada, where the 100,000-strong citizen group the Council of Canadians has been campaigning across the country, three provincial governments have declared that they would not recognise the MAI even if it is signed by the federal government.

In the US, a lobby campaign spearheaded by Public Citizen (led by consumer advocate Ralph Nader) and environmental groups like Friends of the Earth-US, has won support from many members of the Congress who are already sceptical about new trade agreements.

Recently, citizen groups staged an anti-MAI demonstration on the steps of the Capitol building, where members of Congress were presented with handcuffs symbolising the MAI's restrictions on their law-making authority.

The NGOs also organised 'national call-in days' with phone calls from members of the public to Senators and US Negotiators urging them to reject the MAI. A letter from many national environmental organisations was also sent to the US Administration.

In several European countries, there has been a flurry of citizen actions since the MAI's last negotiating session in October 1997.

According to a senior official of an international NGO based in Switzerland, who has been following these activities: 'It appears that all hell has broken loose in some European Union member countries, with a combination of street protests, NGO critiques, outraged parliamentarians and inter-agency fights within governments on key issues. The word "war" has even been applied to the situation in both Finland and Sweden. Things are also moving fast in Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands and the UK.'

In the Netherlands, activists on 12 February 1998 occupied the entrance of the office of the Chairman of the OECD's MAI negotiation group, Mr Engering, at the Hague. Some 40 people from the Dutch anti-MAI action group 'MAI niet gezien' ('MAI not seen/MAI not for me') went inside the Ministry of Economic Affairs to protest against the MAI and to demand the negotiations be extended by at least a year.

The protesters constructed a 'factory' of cardboard boxes in the main hall of the building, to indicate that investments would be out of control under the MAI.

After an hour, the activists met with Mr Engering and negotiator for the Netherlands Marinus Sikkel.

In the presence of several media personnel, the protesters made the point that trying to finish an agreement by the deadline of the end of April 1998 was 'undemocratic and dangerous'. They said that since criticisms against the MAI from civil society are growing day by day, more and more parliaments are demanding a thorough analysis of its impacts.

The activists demanded that to allow time for serious impact assesments of the MAI and for a genuine public debate to emerge, the MAI negotiations should be postponed for at least another year. They also called for a far more open and accessible negotiation procedure, with full information made available and public participation.

Mr Engering told the protesters that such decisions could only be taken by the governments and also declined the request that he postpone the deadline for the treaty's conclusion.

In London, a demonstration was organised by several NGOs on 13 February 1998 in front of the Department of Trade and Industry whilst other actions were taken by local activists including in Oxford, Brighton and Essex.

Director of the UK development advocacy group, World Development Movement, Barry Coates, described the MAI as 'the biggest corporate takeover in the history of the world'. In a campaign letter to the public, Coates said the MAI was secretly negotiated to give multinational companies more rights but fewer responsibilities. 'Unscrupulous companies would be free to act unethically and would actually be able to sue governments who try to stop them,' he said.

The London Guardian has been carrying several reports and letters on the MAI recently. A full-page article by the paper's Economics Editor gave a critical analysis of the treaty, to which the UK Minister of Trade and Industry Lord Clinton-Davis replied, defending the MAI.

The next day a letter by leaders of the World Development Movement, Friends of the Earth and WWF-UK responded to Lord Clinton-Davis, stating that 'there is a real danger of the MAI leading to a reduction in environmental and labour standards for the sake of more foreign investment. The effects on the poorest countries are likely to be devastating.'

In another letter in the Guardian, the founder of the Right Livelihood Award (popularly known as the Alternative Nobel Prize) Jakob von Uexkull, also responding to the UK Minister, said:

'Transnational corporations are already more powerful than many nation states.

'To describe them as victims of discrimination needing more protection is another example of the Orwellian Newsspeak of global corporate rule. A democracy which abdicates the right to favour its citizens over foreign corporations will soon lose its public legitimacy, with potentially disastrous consequences.'

NGO actions have also taken place in Finland, Sweden, Australia and France.

Meanwhile, the coaliation of 565 groups has made the following demands on the OECD countries' governments:

- Suspend the MAI negotiations and extend the 1998 deadline to allow time for public input and participation.
- Increase transparency in the negotiations by releasing the MAI texts and organising public meetings and hearings in both member and non-member countries.
- Renegotiate the terms of withdrawal to enable countries to more easily and rapidly withdraw from the MAI when they deem it in the interest of their citizens. Developing countries which have not been a party to the negotiations must not be pressured to join the MAI. •

any Northern NGOs have been expressing outrage at what they see as the devastating effects of the treaty on their own societies, including on national sovereignty, the environment and consumer interests.

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From the Inside Out

Oregon's Prison Slavocracy

Dan Pens

What I propose is, that as we embark on this massive prison construction program, we try a new approach—convert our "warehouses" into factories with fences around them. To do that we must change our thinking and change the reactionary statutes that stand in the way. I believe the American people are ready to do that.—Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger, 1981

Arbeit Macht Frei [Work Makes One Free] - Inscribed above the entrance to Auschwitz

In 1994 Oregon voters approved two "Get Tough" voter initiatives. The first, Measure 11, altered Oregon's criminal sentencing statutes. As a result, most crimes now carry lengthy mandatory sentences—no probation, no early for good behavior, no parole.

The second initiative, Measure 17, was concerned with making prisoners work in prison factories. Oregon citizens were concerned about the increasing costs of prisons and by the distorted media image they had of prisoners lounging in elegant surroundings, watching color TV's and "pumping iron" with free room, board and medical care.

Measure 17 sought to alter the Oregon Constitution, and though the measure itself was fairly lengthy, at the polling booth it was succinctly worded:

QUESTION: *Shall constitution require state prison inmates to work or train 40 hours per week, (and) allow public (and) private sectors to use inmate work?*

In the media coverage before polling day, voters were sold on another key component of this proposed amendment to the State constitution: Not only would prisoners be required to work, but they wouldn't be paid. Not a cent. Measure 17 provided that any pay to prisoner workers would be taken and used to finance prison costs, restitution to victims, family support, fines, court costs, and taxes.

Measure 17 passed with a 71 percent majority and its provisions went into effect on April 1, 1995.

'Populist' Ideology runs Aground on Reality

But if the measure's grand concepts resonated with Oregon voters, those same ideas turned Oregon's prison system on its head. Serious flaws in the measure soon became apparent as the Oregon department of corrections (ODOC) found itself unable to comply with its new Constitutional mandate.

"This is a huge issue for us," said ODOC spokesperson Nancy DeSouza. "The DOC wants to comply with the voters' mandate to put inmates to work—we believe that's good correctional policy—but we have run into some very serious challenges trying to implement this mandate."

One problem was that Measure 17 failed to include a specific time frame, implying that full compliance was expected immediately. And if compliance is measured by the percentage of prisoners who spend a full 40 hours a week in qualifying work and training activities, then the ODOC indeed faced a monumental challenge. By December 1996, 20 months after the new constitutional provisions went into effect, only 51 percent of Oregon's prison population was engaged in 40-hour/week qualifying activities.

[Measure 49] virtually eliminates the possibility of any challenge brought by "free workers" whose jobs may be "downsized" because of competition from prison-made goods or services...

ODOC officials said in a 1996 report to the Governor that it would take ten years to create enough new prisoner job and/or training slots to reach full compliance. In addition, the ODOC noted that a full 40-hour-a-week schedule is difficult to enforce because of conflicts with call-outs, visitation, meetings with attorneys, disciplinary hearings, medical and dental appointments, religious services and staffing shortages.

In addition, Oregon's existing 10 prisons were designed and built for custody and control—not to be "Factories with fences"—and therefore lacked available work space for creating the necessary number of new jobs.

Another problem with Measure 17 was its provision that 100 percent of prisoners' pay be deducted, which conflicts with federal Prison Industry enhancement (PIE) certification eligibility requirements—which must be met before prisoner-produced goods can be sold across state lines. Federal law requires that prisoners employed by private sector manufacturers be allowed to keep at least 20 percent of their gross earnings. This created a dilemma for Oregon's PIE industries, including their world-famous Prison Blues denim clothing line.

"We're obviously between a rock and a hard place, between the state constitution and federal law," said ODOC Deputy Director Ben de Hann.

As a result of this conflict, and an opinion issued by the state Attorney General's Office, the Oregon Prison Industries Board ordered the ODOC to "immediately cease out-of-state sales of Prison Blues clothing, office and other inmate-made products" in January 1997.

ODOC Subverts Constitution

The measure ran aground on another serious flaw: What incentive does slavery offer prisoners to perform the day-to-day tasks (cooking, cleaning, laundry, etc.) vital to the operation of prisons?

"Without inmate labor, we couldn't run the institutions," said de Hann. "Measure 17 has some serious flaws, and this is one of them. It's obviously exerting a chilling effect [and] may require altering the way inmates have been compensated for 100 years, a system that's absolutely critical to the security of the institutions."

In November, 1996, as Oregon's prisons were placed on lockdown status due to prisoner unrest over impending loss of pay, ODOC spokesperson Jim Lockwood put it more bluntly: stating matter of factly that the ODOC won't force prisoners to work without compensation. He announced that prison officials were considering an alternative incentive system to replace direct compensation. However, the closer such a system gets to hourly compensation, Lockwood conceded, the closer it comes to subverting the constitution.

A month later Oregon's prisons came off lockdown status, and the ODOC unveiled its new compensation plan. Under the new plan, prisoners are awarded "credits" for their labor or participation in approved rehabilitation programs. Once a month these credits are converted into money and deposited in the prisoners' accounts—money they can then spend on commissary items like coffee, stamps, personal hygiene items and snacks.

Another unforeseen problem with Measure 17 became apparent as some prisoners filed lawsuits because they didn't have jobs, despite a state constitution that mandates jobs. Their legal argument was plain and simple: they had a "constitutional right" to a job.

Measure 49—The Fix Is In

Because Measure 17, flaws and all, was enshrined in the State constitution, the ODOC and state lawmakers were powerless to change it. Changes to the constitution required another statewide vote. And so the legislature drafted Measure 49, and a special election was held in May 1997 to place it before Oregon voters.

Measure 49 enjoyed the editorial endorsement of virtually all of the state's major newspapers. The official State Voters' Pamphlet, published and distributed by the Secretary of State, contained three pages of "Argument in Favor" of Measure 49. In addition, there was one page of blank white space published, in lieu of any "Argument in Opposition."

Chief among the arguments in favor of Measure 49 was that it contained new language to fix the problems created by Measure 17, adding key phrases such as: "However, no inmate has a legally enforceable right to a job..." which mooted the lawsuits of prisoners who claimed such a right; and "Except as otherwise required by federal law to permit transportation in interstate commerce of goods..." which resolved the conflict with PIE certification requirements; and redefining a "full-time" 40-hour week as "specifically including time spent by inmates as required by the Department of Corrections...to provide for the safety and security of the public, correctional staff and inmates..." which opened a loophole big enough for the DOC to define just about any "time spent as required by the DOC" as fulfilling the 40-week requirement.

Measure 49 passed by a whopping 91 percent margin.

Oregon Jobs Sold Up the River

Missing from the "Arguments in Favor" of the measure, and buried in the obscurely worded measure itself, is some chilling language:

Prison work products or services shall be available without restriction imposed by any state or local law, ordinance or regulation as to competition with other public or private sector enterprises.

In other words, Paragraph 1, Section 41, Subsection 10, Article 1 of the constitution of the State of Oregon virtually eliminates the possibility of any challenge brought by "free workers" whose jobs may be "downsized" because of competition from prison-made goods or services produced by unpaid slaves.

Full Speed Ahead

Oregon is now poised on the brink of a $1 billion prison expansion program as the ODOC forecasts a doubling in the state's prison population, to more than 15,000, in the next decade. Accommodating those prisoners will require building as many as seven new "factories with fences" by 2007.

First on the drawing board is a $151 million renovation project to transform the former Dammasch State [Mental] Hospital into a combination women's prison and men's intake center.

The men's intake center will occupy 110,718 square feet of the newly renovated facility near Wilsonville, Oregon, and will replace the 58,000 square foot Oregon City intake center.

Wilsonville, located at the vortex of Interstate 5 and Interstate 205, is already the hub of the state's warehousing and transportation business. The new intake center, slated to open August 1, 2000, is therefore ideally suited to warehouse prisoners and to ship them around the state.

Prisoners now entering the ODOC spend an average of 9-15 days in the Oregon City intake center, where they undergo medical and physical evaluations and take a series of written tests designed to measure both educational background and anti-social behaviors, before being assigned to the prison where they will do their time.

"It used to be easy," says Larry Daniels, intake center manager. "All the older guys went to the state penitentiary, the younger guys went to the Oregon State Correctional institution, and the women went to the women's prison."

Prisoners who arrive at the new Wilsonville intake center will stay for 30-

(Continued next page)

WIP Congratulates Prison Legal News on their 8th Anniversary

(Oregon Prison, continued)

45 days. During that time they will receive intensive evaluations designed to help prison administrators decide which "factory with fences" the prisoner's skills will be most suited for.

"This is strictly about good business," says ODOC administrator Larry Herring. "We're using their labor to get the highest possible return while they are incarcerated..."

There are some, like Oregon State Rep. Kevin Mannix, sponsor of both 1994 "Get Tough" ballot measures, who think the ODOC can offer a high enough return on investment and low enough labor costs to compete with any Third World sweatshop. Mannix is lobbying hard to lure Oregon-based Nike shoes to come back home.

"We propose the [Nike] take a look at their transportation costs and their labor costs," says Mannix. "We could offer [competitive prison] labor right here in Oregon."

And so, inscribed above the gateway to one of the seven factories with fences the ODOC will build in the next decade might be a Nike swoosh—and perhaps the inscription: "Work Makes One Free."

Dan Pens is a Washington state prisoner and co-editor of Prison Legal News; *2400 NW 80th Street #148, Seattle WA 98117. PLN's website address is www.prisonlegalnews.org.*

Subscriptions are $15 for prisoners, $20 for individuals, more if you can afford it, and $50 for lawyers and institutions. Prisoner donations of less than $15 will be prorated at $1.25 per issue. Do not send less than $7.50 at a time. •

Prison Jobs and Free World Unemployment

Adrian Lomax

In May 1996, the Fabry Glove & Mitten company opened a production facility in Wisconsin's Green Bay Correctional Institution. The company hired 70 prisoners as laborers, later adding 30 more. The prisoners, who operate cutting and sewing machines, earn $5,25 per hour. The Department of Corrections keeps 65% of the prisoners' wages to offset the expense of imprisoning them.

A year earlier, Wisconsin's Legislature had approved Republican governor Tommy Thompson's plan to amend the state's labor laws in order to allow private firms to set up shop inside the state's prisons. Thompson won passage of his proposal only after assuring legislators that the convict-labor program would not be permitted to steal the jobs of any workers outside prison walls. Michael Sullivan, secretary of the Wisconsin DOC, affirmed that prisoner labor would be used solely to make products not currently being produced in this country.

At the beginning of 1996, the Fabry company employed 205 workers at its three Green Bay-area plants. By April 1997, less than a year after the company began hiring prisoners, Fabry's outside-the-walls workforce had fallen by 40% to 120 employees.

Fabry laid off the fabric cutters at its city plants in August 1996. The following month, the firm issued orders for prisoners to cut fabric for 50,000 gloves, hats, scarves and other products. Many other workers were laid off or fired in the ensuing weeks. In the first nine months of the prison shop's operation, prisoners cut or sewed 461,000 items.

Before the prison venture began, Fabry's outside workers earned up to $11 an hour. Employing free workers also entails non-wage expenses like health-care benefits, vacation benefits, unemployment compensation and workers-compensation insurance premiums. Fabry pays none of those expenses for its prisoner employees.

Democratic state senator Charles Chevala, the senate majority leader, called the Fabry layoffs outrageous. "I challenge the governor to go to Green Bay, stand eye to eye with those laid-off workers who have played by the rules all their lives, and explain why he believes inmates should have their jobs," Chevala said. "Law-abiding citizens—are being forced into competition with prison inmates for jobs, and this is indefensible."

Senator Chevala took issue with these denials. "There can be no mistaking the connection between Fabry's downsizing the their use of prison labor," Chevala wrote in a letter to Sullivan. Chevala called on the DOC chief to cancel the Fabry contract "before more honest, law-abiding working people lose their jobs."

Federal law mandates that private companies hiring prisoners must not displace outside workers. The U.S. Department of Justice is investigating the Fabry ordeal, but the law is unclear. The term "displacement" is not defined and the statute has not yet been tested in court.

Job loss was not the only change that awaited Fabry workers after the company shifted production to the prison shop. Four months after it began hiring prisoners, Fabry slashed the wages of its remaining free employees up to $5.50 an hour. "If you want to work for what the prisoners make," said Penny Vande Voort, a former sewing-machine operator who quit following the pay reduction, "go ahead and work for John Fabry."

Federal law mandates that private companies hiring prisoners must not displace outside workers...[However] the term"displacement" is not defined and the statute has not yet been tested in court.

Company president John Fabry said the layoffs were unrelated to his firm's employment of prisoners. He explained that the company had been planning layoffs since 1995. If the opportunity to hire prisoners had not materialized, Fabry claimed, the company would likely have moved production facilities to Asia.

The DOC supports Fabry's assertion that the layoffs occurred independently of the convict-labor deal. "With the information we have at this point in time, displacement [of Fabry workers with prisoner] did not occur." DOC secretary Sullivan said: "To stay viable, Fabry did reduce some operations, but I am unaware of any displacements resulting from the agreement with us."

John Matthews, governor Thompson's chief of staff, agrees. "The marketplace was forcing him to find a different place to produce these products." Matthews told a reporter, "It came down to a choice between the Pacific Rim and the prison."

The phenomenon of people outside prison walls being thrown out of their jobs by companies employing convicts is not confined to Wisconsin. A replay of the Fabry affair occurred in Texas, where U.S. Technologies sold its electronics plant in Austin and laid off 150 workers; 45 days later, the company's owners opened a facility using convict labor in a Texas prison.

Nationwide, more than 100 private firms have reached convict-for-hire agreements with 29 states. Microsoft, IBM, Victoria's Secret and TWA are among the companies that have exploited prisoner labor.

Reprinted from the May 1998 issue of Prison Legal News. •

Oregon D.O.C. Seeks Corporate Partners

[The following "marketing Focus" fax from the Oregon department of corrections found its way to PLN, the full text of which is reproduced.]

Prime land, buildings, and labor available to nursery industry.
Nursery products-related individuals and business interested in expanding operations through public-private partnerships are sought by the Oregon department of corrections. All partnership proposals will be considered—ideas are limited only by your imagination and you ability to carry out a successful enterprise.

We provide:

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- **Minimum-security inmate labor and security correctional officers.**
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Benefits to Oregon

- **Your partnership with Inmate Work Programs helps us comply with Measure 17's mandate that all inmates must work at least as hard as the taxpayers who support them.**
- **You also provide marketable work skills to inmates, potentially facilitating their successful rehabiltation and return to society upon release.**

All interested individuals are encouraged to learn more about this innovative opportunity. . .(contact info deleted).

Reprinted from the May 1998 issue of Prison Legal News.

Books to Prisoners

Benefit Help Needed

Books to Prisoners is looking for people who have talents, are creative, and/or have time to help put on Books to Prisoners benefits?

Book to Prisoners received twice the usual amount of requests in our November mail. (About 800 letters a month is typical.) No matter what, Books to Prisoners is usually four months behind in mail response since each request is answered individually. In April, we finally got to our holiday mail; Kwanza, Christmas, Hannukah and New Year's well wishes fill our bulletin board.

Unfortunately, due to the large volume from November, our funds set aside for postage are almost gone. What money the organization has now will be used to pay this month's rent and part of our printing needs.

Please help Books to Prisoners with your talent, your creativity, your skills. Do you have an idea, talent, space for a benefit or some spare funds to donate? Please call 352-7336. (Checks for Books to Prisoners can be sent to 116 E. 4th Ave, WA 98501.)

Books to Prisoners

Requested Books

- **Pipe Dream Blues: Racism and the War on Drugs by Clarence Lusane**
- **The State of Native American Genocide, Colonization and Resistance Edited by M. Jaimes**
- **Breaking Bread: Insurgent Black Intellectual Life by Bell Hooks and Cornell West**
- **We Hold These Truths (The ideas and ideals at the Core of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution) by Mortimer J. Adler**
- **The Isis Papers by Wesling**
- **How Capitalism Underdeveloped Black America by Manning Marable**
- **New Perspectives on Prisons and Imprisonment by James B. Jacobs**
- **The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Haley**
- **They Came Before Columbus by Van Sertima**
- **To Be a Slave by Bell Hooks**
- **World's Great Men of Color by J.A. Rogers (or other books by him)**
- **Long Memory—the Black Experience in America by Richard B. Moore**
- **Soledad Brothers by George Jackson**
- **If They come in the Morning by Angela Davis**
- **Analytical Dictionary of Nahuatl by Kartturen Frances**
- **Any book on drawing**
- **Any book on the history of Morocco or Hasan-i-Sabah (founder of Hashshashin)**

If you would like to donate a book, please drop it off at Books to Prisons above Bulldog News.

House Passes Traffic Stops Bill

A.C.L.U.

WASHINGTON -- The House of Representatives passed legislation today that would begin to address the national epidemic of racially motivated traffic stops.

The legislation, which would encourage police departments to keep detailed records of traffic stops, including the race and ethnicity of the person stopped, was passed on a voice vote.

"We are heartened by passage of this bill, which is a small step toward addressing the problem of racially motivated traffic stops that plagues our nation's roadways," said Solange Bitol, ACLU Legislative Counsel.

"We are hopeful this legislation will document what African-Americans throughout the country are already well aware of: the practice of stopping drivers simply because of the color of their skin is too common of a problem," Bitol said.

Under the legislation, the Justice Department is responsible for compiling a report detailing the results of the statistic gathering and sending it to Congress.

Although welcoming the bill, the ACLU noted that during committee markup the bill was weakened by an amendment that prevents the Justice Department report from being used in anti-discrimination lawsuits. The amendment, sponsored by Representative Canady, R-FL, was passed on a party line vote.

"While we are pleased that the report will provide a systematic documentation of the discrimination African-Americans face when they get behind the wheel, it's a shame that committee Republicans ruled out an avenue so vital to holding officers accountable for their actions," Bitol said.

We are heartened by passage of this bill, which is a small step toward addressing the problem of racially motivated traffic stops that plagues our nation's roadways

ACLU offices across the country have dealt with complaints of discrimination from African-American drivers. The Maryland ACLU is engaged in a class-action suit against the Maryland State Police Department over traffic stops on I-95. A study of police stops on one strip of this major interstate found that 73 percent of the cars stopped and searched were driven by African-Americans while they made up only 14 percent of the people driving along the interstate.

© American Civil Liberties Union, 1998. •

by a "Latino inmate" in Texas

***W.I.P.* seeks articles, artwork (black and white is best) from those in prison. Please send submissions to:**

Works In Progress
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The Growing Corrections System

- The number of inmates in state and federal prisons has increased more than five-fold from less than 200,000 in 1970 to 1,159,000 by 1997. An additional 567,000 are held in local jails.
- The number of persons on probation and parole has been growing dramatically along with institutional populations. There are now more than 5.3 million Americans incarcerated or on probation, or parole, an increase of 191 percent since 1980.
- Almost one in three (32%) young black males in the age group 20-29 is under some type of correctional control (incarceration, probation, or parole), as is 1 in 15 young white males and 1 in 8 young Hispanic males.
- In fiscal year 1995, state and federal governments planned $5.1 billion in new prison construction, at an average cost of $58,000 for a medium security cell.
- The 1997 United States' rate of incarceration of 645 inmates per 100,000 population is the second highest reported rate in the world. In 1995 Russia reported a rate of incarceration of 690 per 100,000.

The Sentencing Project (1998)

Your Help Is Needed

Because of the huge number of letters Books for Prisoners-Olympia Support Group receives each month and its limited resources, requests often wait many months to be filled. Thousands of letters still remain in boxes. Your help and generousity are urgently needed.

If we desire individuals in this country's prisons to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic, then we too need to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic. We need to "walk the talk." Please donate your time, money or books.

In greatest demand are:

English, Spanish/English, Southeast Asian dictionaries, thesaurus, new almanaces, and GED books.

Frequently requested are:

African-American, Chicano/Latino, and Native American history and progressive U.S. history.

Please donate:

- Any other good books
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Please bring donations of books to the Books to Prisoner-Olympia office at the Liberation Cafe above Bulldog News.

Please make checks payable to Books to Prisoners.

Address: Books to Prisoners c/o Liberation Cafe, 116 4th Ave, Olympia WA 98501

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Seattle WA 98101

Books to Prisoners May Events

• Open drop in work/training sessions every Thurs. 3-9 pm above Bulldog News, 116 E. 4th, Olympia. *Training takes about 1 hour. Once you are trained you can work anytime Bulldog is open.*

• Fri. May 1st - Watch for our info table at TESC's Red Square as part of the May Day Celebration.

• Sat. May 16th - Contra Dance Benefit for BTP called by Lisa Strange at the South Bay Grange. Call 352-7336 for details.

• Sat. May 16th - An Evening of Folk Music Benefit for BTP with Ashley Raines and more at Liberation Cafe above Bulldog, 8pm.

• BTP Volunteer Potluck - 3rd Sun. of the month., (May 17th), 3 pm at Liberation Cafe 116 E. 4th Ave, Oly.

• Turn in Bayview and Ralph's grocery receipts! (dated Oct 97 to present) B to P receives 1%. Please send to the address below.

• *Thank you to all who submitted receipts!* We got enough to pay our rent for April. And *thanks* to Storman's (Bay View and Ralph's).

• Save the UPC code from Western Family Products and send to B to P, 115 E 4th Ave, Olympia, WA 98501

Events, Announcements, Etc.

magazine that a peaceful solution was not only possible but inevitable. Among Maitreya's many other forecasts from 1988 - 1992: the release of Nelson Mandela, the process of detente in South Africa, and the positive developments between Isreal and the Palestinians. Maitreya is the One Awaited under various names by all the world's major religions. He lives as an apparently ordinary man in the Asian community of London, England, and is a great teacher, concerned with contemporary economics and political issues. One major event which, Maitreya says, we may expect to see in the near future, and which he announced as early as 1988, is an international stock market crash, beginning in Japan. The economic crash, he predicts, will eventuate in new government priorities world-wide: food and adequate housing for all, healthcare and education as a universal right.

For more info: <http://www.shareintl.org> or <gopher.shareintl.org 7004>

Thurston Community Television Named "Best of the Northwest"

Thurston Community Television has received the **1998 Overall Excellence Award for Public, Educational and Government Access Programming** from the Best of the Northwest Video Festival.The award, sponsored by the Alliance for Community Media NW, recognizes TCTV for their overall effort to create effective, diverse, locally produced cable access programs that resulted in positive impact on the community.

In addition to the Overall Excellence Award, nine individual programs produced by local video makers were selected to receive the Award of Excellence in specific categories

The Alliance for Community Media is a national, nonprofit organization that advocates for the development, support and utilization of electronic community media. The Alliance Northwest is comprised of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and the Canadian Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta.

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TCTV Annual Open House

May 17th from 1-4pm

Tour, how to get involved to create programming, be part of a live studio audience, and Speak Your Piece, where you give a 1-2minute commentary on the subject of your choice to be televised in the coming month.

Latina Youth Leadership Workshop

by Olivia Salazar, Founder and Coordinator Hispanic Youth Network

The Hispanic Women's and Youth Networks of Olympia are proud to announce the 6th annual Latina Youth Leadership Workshop, entitled "Con Ganas/ With Desire: Latinas On A Mission". To be held on Saturday, May 23, from 9am to 4pm at the U.S. Olympic National Forest Headquarters, 1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW in Olympia. It is a full day event for Latinas currently enrolled in high school in Lewis, Mason, and Thurston counties. This is designed to celebrate Latinas and bring speakers to serve as role models, have empowerment activities, and even a beauty and fashion presentation led by Nordstrom. FREE! Light breakfast, lunch, and workshop materials are provided. Registration is required. RSVP deadline is May 16th. Call Olivia at (360) 956-3100 extension 301 or email (osalazar@wln.com) to register. Non-Latina friends invited!

Cinco de Mayo '98

"Heading Home. . .Going Back to our Roots, Celebrando La Cultura"

MeCHA is proud to announce CINCO DE MAYO '98. The featured event at the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington May 1, 2, and 5th will examine and celebrate Latino culture and contributions featuring local Latino/ Chicano artists of the Pacific Northwest. Cinco de Mayo '98 has been conceived and created by MeCHA/ Evergreen students and members from the Chicano/ Latino community.

Cinco de Mayo '98's activity line up includes: a Chicano/Latino art exhibit, a slide show of highlighted artists' work, the Tex-Mex music group CORAN, a Folklorico dance group, youth dance group "Jovenes Sin Fronteras", pinatas, Mariachis, a Loteria, a Chicano/Latino Artswalk, food booths, info tables, face painting, kid's games, and vendors. The culminating event on Saturday, May 2nd, will be the outdoor, all day celebration at the Red Square on TESC campus that will feature a presentation on the history of Cinco de Mayo, and an outdoor concert performed by both CORAN and a Mariachi Band.

This event is designed to create awareness and celebrate the culture and contributions that Chicanos/Latinos have to offer. In the past, Thurston County's Cinco de Mayo has attracted various talented participants to perform for audiences of over 5,000 for no admission. For more information contact Martha at TESC MeCHA, (360) 866-6000 x6143.

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Hello All, The Mujeres of Teatro de la Vida Real (Improvisation of personal story for the empowerment of latinos and latinas) will have a performance on Tuesday, May 5 at 5pm. The performance is free and will be held at The Evergreen State College in the Library Building, Room 3500. We would love to see you there! Please pass the word.

Leticia Nieto

The First Northwest Butoh Festival

The weekend of May 7-10. Butoh artists from Seattle, San Francisco, Ohio, Honolulu, Arizona, and Olympia will be performing and giving workshops throughout this four day extravaganza. For those wondering what exactly butoh is, fortunately (depending on how one looks at it), there is not an exact definition, except that it is a form of dance/ theatre originated in Japan. Butoh was born in Japan in the late 1940's, just after WWII. Although butoh did not begin as a political movement, it is important to understand the political and cultural atmosphere of Japan at that time in order to understand the development of this radical form of dance. Hiroshima and Nagasaki had just been bombed and Japan was exposed to horrors beyond imagination.

Part in reaction to these horrors and part in revolutionary revolt against the existing forms of traditional dance, butoh was born.

Among the weekend events will be a feature performance by San Francisco's Harupin-Ha, Seattle's Dappin' Butoh, and Olympia's own Omophagia. The festival's finale is the Butoh Ball which will take place on Red Square on the Evergreen campus. Jessie Breznau, the festival's director and mastermind, has put the festival together from its very beginning and has worked hard to bring butoh performers of varying backgrounds together for a weekend of performances, workshops, and fun.

Festival passes are free to Evergreen students (but you must register now to secure a spot) and $75 for the general public. To register, please call Jessie at 705-8553 or e-mail her at breznauj@elwha.evergreen.edu. Preregistration is advised. Tickets for Harupin-Ha ($5 students/$10 general) and the Butoh Ball ($5 for everyone) may be purchased separately.

Support Tribal Sovereignty

Gathering to Fight Racism
March and Rally
May 9th at 12noon
March starting in Sylvester Park (downtown Olympia)
Rally on Capital Steps at 1pm

Washington State is one of three states targeted by the ultra-right wing in their campaign against Native Treaty Rights and Tribal Sovereignty. Among those behind this campaign are national anti-treaty organizations, "Wise-Use" anti-environmental organizations, the Heritage Foundation, far right wing militias and Senator Slade Gorton. Those of us who believe in Native Treaty Rights, Tribal Sovereignty, resisting racism wherever it may be found, and opposing the right wing racist agenda, have decided

Assaulted Mother Needs Your Help to Find Truth

Anonymous

I hope this letter falls on open ears and open minds. I'll get right to the point to avoid losing the attention of the reader.

I am a hard working , tax paying , law abiding citizen of Olympia, I am an involved mother of three children. I am a regular sort, no one of consequence or importance, just a person.

On a fateful summer night in, August of 1997, I was pulled into our system of justice: to state it plainly I was involved in and argument with another citizen and simultaneously assaulted by three officers of the city. To add insult to the circumstances, I was charged with assaulting them in defense of my life, this attack was swift and without warning. I believe it was a show to intimidate a crowd of young people. At the scene I was not given any human or civil rights, I was not asked what the situation was or why the argument had occurred. To add further insult those involved choose to play with the truth to protect themselves from their own bad judgment, at my great expense. I have hope that a reader may remember this incident and come forward with their own account of what had occurred. The only clues I can give would be: it occurred in the alley and parking lot of US Bank , downtown Olympia, and that I was wearing a short dark dress, my hair is brown, and I mentioned assault.

I believe it was a show to intimidate a crowd of young people. At the scene I was not given any human or civil rights. I have hope that a reader may remember this incident and come forward with their own account of what had occurred.

I have since been in a struggle to clear my good name and find justice in a system where justice is blind. The truth is irrelevant if someone is accountable. I have been condemned by educated people based only on assumptions, as they were no witness to the real crime. I have been called a "sideshow" and a "drunk that probably fell down", but I am safe in my resolve that I am not a sideshow nor a drunk that fell down. I believe that I was excessively pushed down and abused by those sworn to protect. They have yet to admit all who were involved and the circumstances of their involvement, Why, is a question that may never be answered. I am unable to retaliate or question the establishment without the guidance of attorneys as anything I say will be held against me.

Before this unfortunate incident occurred, I was safe in the comforts of my simple life. I had no reason to question the integrity of our system because before now I had no involvement or knowledge of how it really works. "Ignorance is Bliss". My observations are symbolic and forever cynical. "Sometimes people don't want to see the truth because it shakes, to the core, their own realities and the comfort of what they can accept as the truth". "There is no greater disappointment then the realization that the people that you trust the most turnout to be the most untrustworthy". We are often taught and lead to believe that people of position, of education or of high social class have earned more respect and trust than a hard working man with ragged clothes. It is a common misconception, unfortunate but true.

My point to be exact is just this:

Don't be fooled by the masks people wear, be it a uniform and badge, a nice suit and tie, or black robe. Don't be mislead by the titles of Kings or Presidents, underneath they are no more credible, moral, and fallible then you and I.

Call WIP or CopWatch with any information on the incident.

Events, Announcements, Etc.

that the time has come to take a stand against this racist campaign.

Please join with us in adding your voice in a strong statement that not all the people in the state of Washington are racist and anti-First Nations.

Co-sponsored by The Anti-Racist Emergency Action Network and the Northwest Leonard Peltier Support Network.

Call 253/383-9108 or 360/943-3274

East Timores Activist and member of the East Timor Action Network will be in Olympia

TESC campus
MAY 11th in the evening
(exact time and room to be posted)

He was one of the main organizers of the East Timorese underground before his dramatic escape from ET, through Indonesia, about 4 years ago.

He will talk about current ETAN campaigns to bring peace and self-determination to the long suffering people of ET who have been suffering genocide and starvation since the Indonesian invasion and 30 years of occupation by Suharto's murderous US backed military.

For info call EPIC at 866-6000 x6144.

Rally to Protect Affirmative Action

Saturday, May 30th at Noon
Olympia's Sylvester Park
Speakers TBA

For more information call the Olympia Coalition for Equal Opportunity at 943-7469. Come to the May meetings on the 6th and 20th.

Giant Puppets, Street Theater, Music, Dance

Art & Revolution Convergence Direct Action and Street Theater Skills Intensive

May 15 - 17
Camano Island
Learn more art for your actions
Learn more organizing for your art

Experienced artists and activists will help develop our skills over the weekend

Our Action will tie in to Reclaim the Streets/Global Street Party!

We will take our creative action to the streets of Seattle on the 18th.

Our theme this weekend is countering dramatic overconsumption with the awareness that our real needs are not met in the marketplace — we need community, relationships, and participation to live fully. When we challenge the "Work Buy Consume Die" culture with creativity and resistance, we can spark questions that can lead to action and positive changes in society. True exchange must happen on a local, human scale — we must demand it.

Pre-registration is requested: $35-85 sliding scale, covers all vegan meals, workshop materials and all expenses. Registrations received by May 9th get $10 off. Work exchanges are available, before or after the event. Tent camping.

For more information call Cascadia Art & Revolution (206) 632-2954 or car@scn.org

End Corporate Dominance

The End Corporate Dominance Alliance is sponsering its first annual Regional Conference to END CORPORATE DOMINANCE over ECOSYSTEMS and COMMUNITIES. The conference will be at Portland State University on May 29-31. The conference will address the need to dismantle the mechanisms of corporate control over ecosystems and communities. Come hear how people are reclaiming authority over institutions at the local/regional and national/international levels. There will also be music and dance performance, as well as opportunities to create art (masks, puppets, banners) expressive of participants' concerns.

Learn how to organize for lasting systemic change through a popular movement uniting work on seprate issues. Your participation in this event is encouraged. Topics will include the history of past citizen authority over corporations, indigenous ways of thinking, alternatives to corporate dependency and tactics and strategies for a successful movement. Among the nationally known participants are : Lee Lew Lee, Ward Churchill, Cecilia Rodriguez, Jeff Mackler, Jeffrey St. Clair, Gerard Colby, and Charlotte Dennett. Sponsers include Chiapas Urgent Call, Cascadia Forest Defenders, the Blue Mountains Biodiverstiy Project, Students for Unity, the Oregon Wildlife Federation Collective, Socialist Action, the Pacific Party, Radical Women, and the American Anti-Prohibition League. The conference is free, but donations are encouraged. To register or for further information call (503) 725-9045 or (503) 241-5468.

(Tobacco, continued)

you were a parent of a 15-year-old in Beijing or Seoul, in Nairobi or Sao Paulo, in Moscow or Kiev. In recent years, the U.S. tobacco companies have begun introducing a host of slick marketing techniques -- free cigarette giveaways, sponsorships of rock concerts and sports events, discotheque dance nights, promotional t-shirts, hats and other attire, and many others -- that make smoking seem cool, hip, sophisticated and very, very American. Smoking rates among teens are rising. Wouldn't you hope that the U.S. government would at least ensure that U.S. tobacco companies not expose your child to deceptive marketing strategies that are outlawed or about to be banned in the United States?

Russell Mokhiber is editor of the Washington, D.C.-based Corporate Crime Reporter. Robert Weissman is editor of the Washington, D.C.-based Multinational Monitor, and co-director of Essential Action, a corporate accountability group.

Focus on the Corporation is a weekly column written by Russell Mokhiber and Robert Weissman. Please feel free to forward the column to friends or repost the column on other lists. If you would like to post the column on a web site or publish it in print format, we ask that you first contact us (russell@essential.org or rob@essential.org).

Olympia Political/Cultural Center A.K.A. Liberation Cafe

(360) 352-7336 - 116 4th Ave in downtown Olympia (above Bulldog News)
LiberationCafe@juno.com & <http://members.aol.com/LiberCafe/Pandp.html>

May Events at the Cafe

2nd Saturday - 7pm - The Erosion of Native Soverignty and Treaty Rights with Arthur Miller.

8th, Friday- 8pm- City Limits Music presents music with Women Songwriters: Betsy Grace, Christine Corey, and Senayit. $3-5 cover.

9th, Saturday- 8pm- City Limits Music presents music with Chris Chandler, Rebecca Pearcy, and El Serioso. Cover charge.

15th, Friday - 7pm - Title: Performance Art. Writers and activists, **Robin Landsong and Nomy Lamm**, will be reading from their writings and singing. Nomy Lamm will read from her zine, "I'm so Fucking Beautiful" and other works. Robin Landsong will read from her in-progress book, "Regroving Glass Forests", and sing from her upcoming CD. They will also pair up and sing some original music.

22nd, Friday - 7pm - Suicide Intervention Presentation with Thurston County Coroner Madelyn Schwartz.

29th, Friday - TBA

LIBERATION CAFE DREAMS ON!

We're a bunch of dreamers dreaming dreams of justice and peace. And we work at it, in our little ways, every day.

So we are more than dreamers.

And less. We get overwhelmed by life in America and fight ourselves, deny ourselves and fight each other.

We're in a time of transition. The dream is still clear. A place where people can gather and talk and create themselves and a society of equals. Listen to music and debate issues, share rage and work for peace.

Come on by. We're still here, above the Bulldog News.

Next meetings are May 6th and 20th at 7pm.

Are you concerned about the profit-driven and increasingly exclusionary state of health care in this country?

Attend a one-day conference,

"Health Care For Everybody:

Affordability, Fairness and Choice from Birth to Death"

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1998
9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
at
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY
Pigott Auditorium
12th Ave and Jefferson Street

CONFERENCE GOALS:

- To explore failures of the present system of health care delivery
- To learn how Canada and other industrialized nations have achieved universal health coverage
- To educate ourselves and others about single payer health issues and reforms
- To bond with others and increase participation in working for universal health care

To pre-register send $30 to: WaSPAN
P.O. Box 30506
Seattle, WA 98103

or call WaSPAN, (206) 329-2237 for info about discounts.

The conference is sponsored by WaSPAN, a non-profit, statewide coalition established in 1993 to organize for a national, publicly funded universal health care system. We have local chapters throughout the state, including Thurston County, and are a part of a coalition of similar advocacy organizations in Alaska, California and Oregon. For more information about the Thurston Chapter of WaSPAN, call 456-8352 or 438-0050.

www.users.tss.net/hcn

1 Hate Crimes - Locally, Regionally & Nationally

7 Resisting Racist Anti-Tribal Campaign

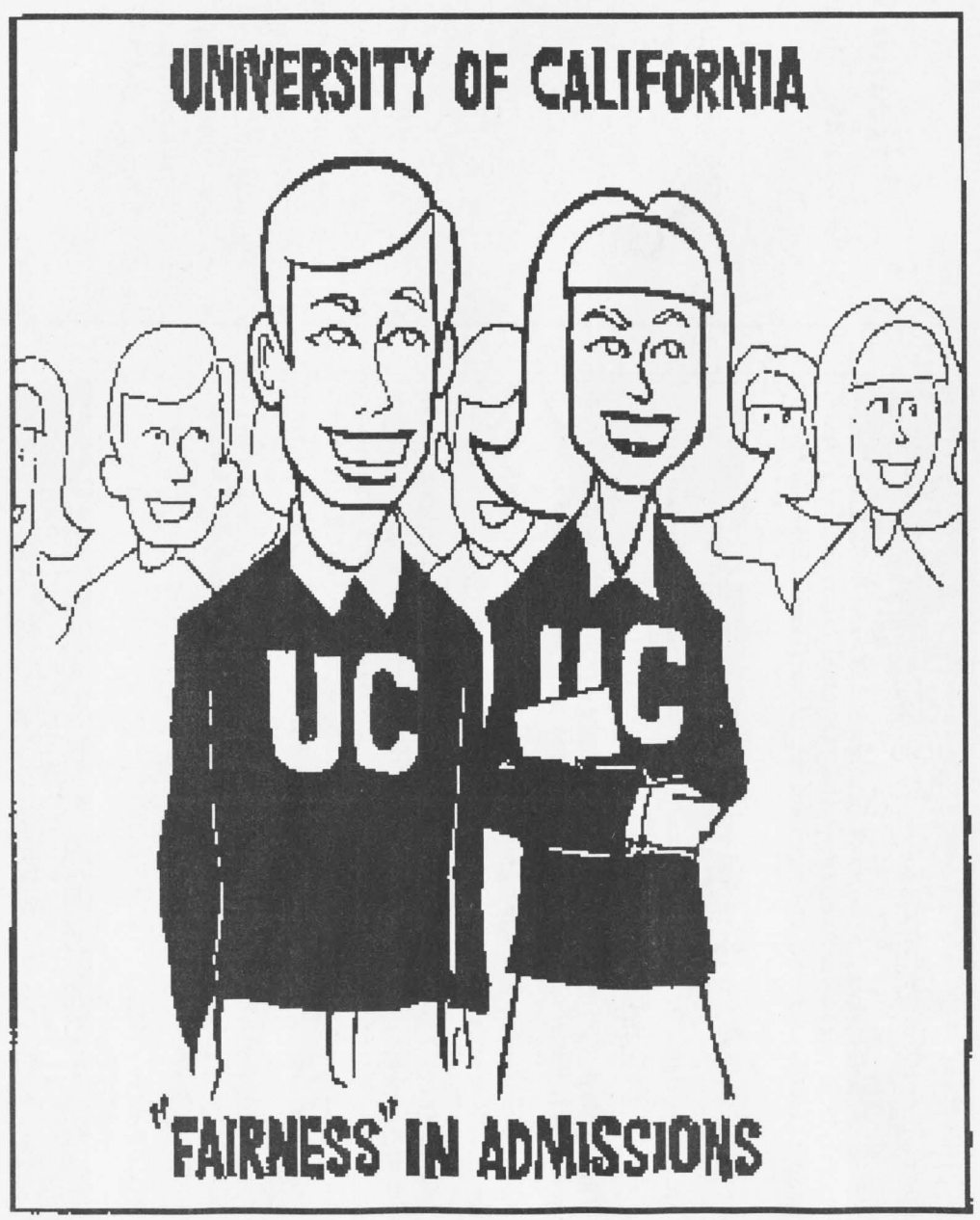
9 Along the Color Line Political Prisoners Abdul Haqq & Assata Shakur

10-11 Political Prisoner March & Rally - Jericho '98

13 MAI Update

15 Oregon's Use Of Prison Labor

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507



WORKS IN PROGRESS

MAY 1998 THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION FREE